

VINCEANES, M.D.A.

DRAWER 11A

TOWNS - LINCOLN INTEREST

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# Indiana

## Cities & Towns

### Vincennes

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Miss Eliza E. C.  
Springfield  
Ohio

to Dr. C. C. C. C.  
Letter No. 17th June 1860  
40 July 17th 1860

Dear Cousin

It is so long  
since I received a letter from you that I  
am anxious to hear from you. I have been very  
busily engaged since my return and have given  
but little time to the land business or to my so-  
cial correspondence. I have since the first of  
April fenced in 27 acres of my prairie and  
have broken and put in about 100 acres - the  
corn looks very fine and if the season should  
continue as favorable as it has been thus far I  
will have an immense crop. I never saw corn  
look better.

Attended our State Conv. on the 9th  
of June at which we nominated our State of-  
ficers - there were about 200 delegates and  
I am truly glad never in life saw a congregated  
body of men so many noble intelligent looking men  
But "Great Old & he" was there a head and  
shoulders above the rest the noblest Roman

of them all the observed of all observers - simple  
and unaffected in manners - sociable and easy of ac-  
cess to the humblest of his fellow-Citizens. I had  
the honor of an introduction to Lincoln by my  
friend J. R. Dubois, Auditor of State who  
is from our County. Lincoln gave me a very com-  
pact greeting and entered into conversation as an  
old friend and acquaintance. After conversing awhile  
said I to him Lincoln there is a rumor in cir-  
culation in our region about you and I want you  
to tell me all about it - well said he what is it?  
About 30 years <sup>ago</sup> rumor says Abram Lincoln was  
seen walking barefoot driving a ox team with an  
ox wagon moving a family through our town of  
Carmerville - is that true? - in part says Lincoln  
About 30 years <sup>ago</sup> I did drive my father's Ox wagon  
and team moving my father's family through your town  
of Carmerville and I was afoot but not bare-  
foot. In my young days I frequently went barefooted  
but on that occasion I had on a substantial pair  
of shoes - it was a cold day in March and I never  
went barefooted in cold weather. I will remember <sup>that</sup>  
trip thro' your County as long as I live. I crossed the  
Habash at Glencunes and in the river being high  
the road on the low-plain was covered with water  
a half mile at a stretch and the water covered

with ice - the only means by which I could keep the road was by obscuring the stakes on each side <sup>back</sup> as quite. When the water is over the road - When I came to the water I put a favorite ~~first~~ dog I had along into the wagon and got in myself and whipped up my oars and started into the water to pick my way across as well as I could - after breaking the ice and wading about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile my little dog jumped out of the wagon and the ice being thin he broke through and was struggling for life. I could not bear to lose my dog and I jumped out of the wagon and waded waist deep in the ice and water got hold of him and helped him out and saved him.

Lincoln is a man of the people who by patient toil and perseverance from the humblest walks of life to be considered second to no man in our great Republic.

The nomination is greeted with enthusiastic shouts and joyful demonstrations by all the friends of freedom in our fair state. We have good cause to believe that Egypt will be redeemed Lincoln will get a vastly increased vote over the vote given to ~~Lincoln~~ <sup>to</sup> an example our County of Laramie gave <sup>Lincoln</sup> 81 votes only out of a vote of 1000 - at our next fall election we expect to cast about 1700 and from the reports of a recent investigation lately made we expect to

carry the County for Lincoln - this is over a thousand per cent gain. Many other Counties boast of larger gains than ours - in some cases twice in Egypt. These were but Corp. Republicans who gave in for us and they now expect to carry the counties for Lincoln.

I have not forgotten the promise you made us when you enlivened that you would visit us sometime during the Presidential campaign and make us some stitching sketches. We will hope to see you here before long. Come and bring your dad. Bring also with you some of those land buyers. This is a good time to buy land because the crops look very fine and flourishing, and it is a good time to buy land because there are many very fine bargains. Bill Enders and Ed are here - Bill is supporting himself at the farm and Ed is selling fruit there - they are well - our family are well - give our respects to your wife, your mother and all the friends.

Yours truly,  
A. G. Enders



# Souvenir Tourist's Guide



Historic Vincennes



SOUVENIR TOURIST'S GUIDE

*Historic  
Vincennes*



PUBLISHED BY  
VINCENNES FORTNIGHTLY CLUB  
Vincennes, Indiana

### *The Fortnightly Trail*

THE Fortnightly Trail was established in the spring of 1923. The idea was originated, sponsored and financed by the Vincennes Fortnightly Club, an organization composed of two hundred club women. This Club was founded in 1891 and has the distinction of being the first woman's club in the state of Indiana to own its own home. The purpose of the Trail is primarily to make more accessible to tourists and visitors the many interesting historical points in Vincennes. The route leads directly to twenty-four of the most important places of historical interest. It also covers the central residence streets to the city and passes most of the churches and public buildings. It is five miles in length and follows paved streets with one or two exceptions.

The Trail connects with the main state and interstate highways entering the city, and it may be taken at any point and will lead back to the place of beginning.

This booklet does not attempt to be an exhaustive history. It simply serves to identify and give the salient facts concerning the several points of interest. Those who desire to further pursue the study of Vincennes history will find many interesting books on the subject in the Public Library.

The Club expresses its appreciation for the many courtesies extended it in this undertaking.

THE VINCENNES FORTNIGHTLY CLUB.

Vincennes, April, 1923.

## *The Place of Vincennes in American History*

VINCENNES is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the United States. She has lived under three flags, the flags of what are now the three greatest powers on earth. Born under France, matured under England, she became the parent of the American Union in the Northwest Territory and the mother of the great states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. She was the cradle of American world power. Because of the revolutionary battle fought on her soil, the Mississippi, instead of the Alleghanies, became our first western boundary. For many years after our independence, she was the veritable guardian of that independence, the frontier fortress, the Metz of the Mississippi, around whose waters France, England and the United States formed their foreign policies toward one another, both on this continent and at home. She was the pivot around which the wheel of American progress turned until Thomas Jefferson moved our western border to the Rockies. No other city has had a more varied participation in the great struggle for the possession of this continent.

No one yet knows when the first white men came here. The early romance of Vincennes remains in faded scraps here and there—little strands from the brocaded coat of the Old Dominion. One day far back in 1609, in the hush of these primeval woods, a black-robed Jesuit penned a letter to his mother in far-off France, speaking to her of his adventures among these strange savages of another world. He had come among them here two months before. This letter, yellowed with age, remained in the Old Cathedral Library until it was stolen from the archives in 1873.

*VINCENNES was the first Capital of Indiana Territory*

A priest found among the old church records of St. Francis Xavier a memorandum in French of another Jesuit who had passed this way in 1689.

The tradition persists among the Vincennes French today that Juchereau de St. Denis, Canadian officer, carrying out the orders of Cadillac, Crozat's governor at Detroit, came along the Wabash in 1702 and left a band of Frenchmen at Post Vincennes, and, when he went on, left one Leonardi in command. Tradition is more than a mere legend. Father Gabriel Marest wrote from Kaskaskia on November 9, 1712, that the French had established a post on the Wabash and had asked for a missionary and that Father Mermet was sent them. The scholarly and conscientious Bishop Brute found among the records of the mission of St. Louis at Peoria, and the church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, at Kaskaskia, Illinois, and the Recorder's office at that place, evidence that Vincennes and the Catholic Church were in existence in 1708. The French of Vincennes in 1772 set up as a legal claim that their colony was of seventy years' standing.

Though the exact date of the establishment of the Old Post may always remain a mystery, to provoke the research of the student of historic lore, the place of the post in American History is firmly fixed.

## Stop 1



### *The Territorial Legislative Hall*

The first Indiana Territorial Legislature met in this building on July 9, 1805. It was then located on the present site of the First National Bank, at 217 Main Street. The first floor was occupied by the territorial official, and the assembly met on the second floor, which is reached by an outside stairway at one end of the building.

The exact age of the building has not been definitely determined. It was probably erected about the year 1800. Some seventy years ago it was removed from its original site to the east side of Third Street, near Harrison Park, where it was occupied as a residence until the Spring of 1919. The Vincennes Fortnightly Club, from motives of patriotic pride and local historical interest, by public subscription, then purchased the building and had it removed to its present location. It is gradually being restored to its original appearance and refurnished in keeping with the period in which it was used for official purposes.

This old building is, as a matter of fact, the first capitol of what is now the state of Indiana, since Indiana Territory was admitted into the Union of states in 1816.

*VINCENNES is the Oldest Town in Indiana*

## Stop 2



### *The William Henry Harrison Mansion*

By far the most important historic relic in Indiana is the Harrison House, the former home of General William Henry Harrison, who was the first governor of the Indiana Territory and the ninth president of the United States. This building, which with its grounds was called Grouseland by its owner, was erected between the years 1804 and 1806. It is said to have been the first building of burnt brick west of the Alleghanies. This house is very impressive because of its dignified appearance, its straight lines, and its simple, massive proportions. Neath one of its trees was held the famous conference with the great Tecumseh. The legend of the underground tunnel, the bullet hole in the shutter, the lookout from the attic, the ammunition room in the basement, the magnificent council chamber, and the beautiful winding staircase carry the visitor back to the romantic days of pioneer life in Old Vincennes.

The Francis Vigo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution purchased this home in 1916 from the Vincennes Water Supply Company, who, for business reasons, intended to tear down the old house. To this organization is due credit for the fact that this interesting monument to the past has been preserved for the future generations of Indiana. Each year sees important gifts of colonial furniture, of papers of historic value, or loans of valuable objects to this house, that has become a veritable museum. No one should pass through Vincennes without visiting the Harrison House. A caretaker is in charge who will gladly conduct visitors through the building. A small fee is charged, which, with the money secured from the sale of post-cards and booklets, go to the upkeep of the house.

*VINCENNES, the home of the first Catholic Church in Indiana*

## Stop 3

### *The Treaty Tree*

The "Governor's Mansion," erected in 1804 by General William Henry Harrison, and said to have been the first brick building west of the Alleghany Mountains, was originally surrounded by a large grove of magnificent walnut trees. The plantation was called "Grouseland," and with the river flowing on one side, and its vineyards and orchards in the rear, presented a picture long to be remembered.

It was under the trees comprising this grove that a treaty of peace was signed between General Harrison and the Indian Chief Tecumseh.

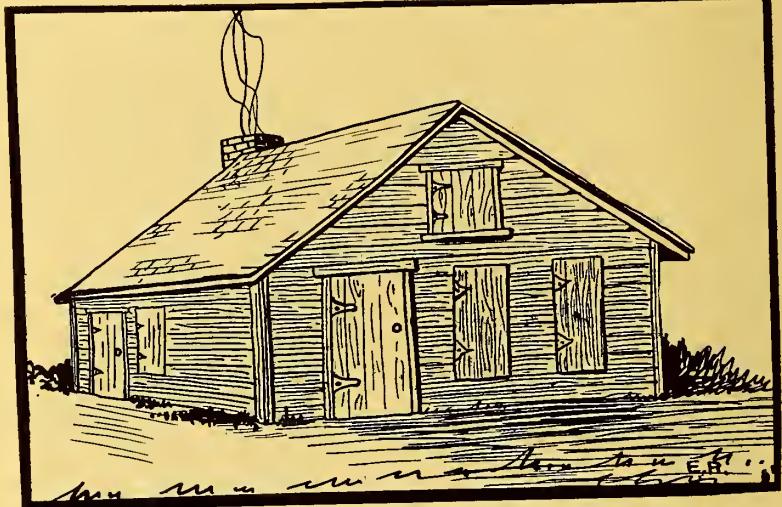
Of this extensive grove but a single survivor remains, a scarred and time-worn walnut, upon ground now owned by the Standard Oil Company. Through the generosity of this company, a beautiful bronze tablet has been placed upon this historic tree. This



memorial was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies by the Francis Vigo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, on October 1, 1920.

*VINCENNES, the home of the first Presbyterian Church in Indiana*

## Stop 4



### *Where the First Newspaper in Indiana Was Printed*

On this spot was printed the first newspaper established within the confines of the state of Indiana. It was established by Elihu Stout, who brought his supplies with pack horses from Frankfort, Kentucky. The first issue appeared, under the name of the *Indiana Gazette*, on July 31, 1804. After nearly two years the plant was destroyed by fire. When resumed, six months later, the name of the publication was changed to the *Western Sun*, under which name the paper is still issued. Stout purchased a site for his printery as shown in pen drawing in 1805.

When in March, 1830, Abraham Lincoln, as a youth of twenty-one years, spent three days in Vincennes on his way to make his future home in Illinois, he was much interested in the printing process as he observed it for the first time in the office of the *Western Sun*. Albert T. Reid, the noted illustrator, has drawn a picture representing the incident, which he calls "The Meeting of the Two Great Emancipators."

The paper has been in the possession of three families for 102 years of its 119 of existence, the present ownership extending since 1876. The daily edition was started in 1879 by R. E. Purcell.



*VINCENNES, the home of the oldest Methodist Church in Indiana*

## Stop 5



### *The Old Ellis Mansion (now the Pastime Club)*

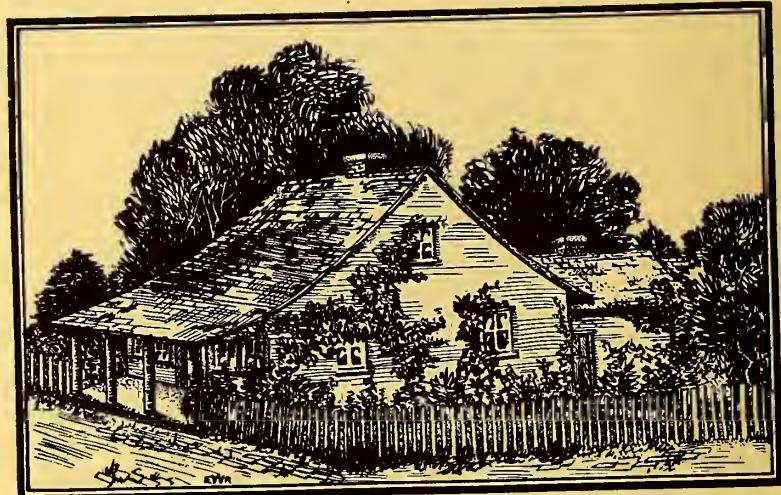
This imposing, old colonial mansion, now nearly a hundred years old, was built by Judge Abner T. Ellis, one of the distinguished citizens of Vincennes. The stonework is of native material, quarried laboriously by hand in this vicinity. Notwithstanding its great age and apparent softness, it is remarkably well preserved. The interior woodwork, wide fireplaces and high wainscoting are especially beautiful, being hand-carved cherry and black walnut. An interesting feature is an item scratched with a diamond in a delicate feminine hand on a window pane, to the effect that on a given date in 1849 Judge and Mrs. Ellis and daughter Miss Lucy went on a trip to St. Louis. The *Indiana Gazeteer*, a book published in 1849, describes this building as the finest residence in the state at that time.

Some seventy-five years ago Judge Ellis was one of the most progressive citizens of the state. He was a pioneer in the efforts to establish steamboat navigation on the Wabash River. He was also the promoter and first president of the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad (the predecessor to the B. & O.). The Judge was an intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln and frequently entertained him in this house. During the Clay campaign in 1844 Lincoln visited Judge Ellis here, and on this occasion they rode on horseback to Bruceville, where the latter delivered a campaign speech.

The Ellis mansion is now the home and property of the Pastime Club, one of the exclusive social organizations of the city. This club was established in 1885 and takes a great pride in the traditions associated with its interesting club home.

*VINCENNES, the home of the first Masonic Lodge in Indiana*

## Stop 6



### *Site of the Home of Col. Francis Vigo*

About the year 1800, Col. Francis Vigo, the distinguished Revolutionary hero, of whom further mention is made elsewhere, having recently married Elizabeth Shannon, a comely lass, built a residence which was considered palatial for those days. The builder of the house, it is said, was given twenty guineas for completing it in time to enable its hospitable owner to tender it for occupancy to Gen. William Henry Harrison, who had just been appointed governor of the Indiana Territory. The governor, however, declined to occupy more than one room, and was assigned the parlor, the floor of which was laid in square blocks of white oak and black walnut in alternating rows. The furnishings of the parlor (as did those of the other rooms) harmonized with the elegance and beauty of the floor, and comprised, among the few pictures that hung upon the walls, a handsome oil painting of Thomas Jefferson.

Col. Vigo also possessed a boat, in which he made frequent voyages on the Wabash and Ohio rivers. This craft was as elegantly furnished and supplied as his home, the owner taking a peculiar pride in his personal belongings, silverware and linens.

*VINCENNES, the home of the first Newspaper in Indiana*

## Stop 7



### *Site of the Old Ferry Where Lincoln Crossed in 1830*

In the Spring of 1830, the Lincoln family migrated from Spencer County, Indiana, to Sangamon County, Illinois. Vincennes was the largest city passed through on the journey, and three days were spent here. When the journey was resumed the river was crossed at a ferry at the foot of Busseron Street. In 1915 the state of Illinois fixed the route taken by Lincoln from this point to his new home.

The local chapter of the D. A. R. has, among many other interesting books and documents, the original records showing the holder of the ferry licenses issued at Vincennes as early as the year Lincoln crossed here.

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## Stop 8

### *Original Site of the Old Legislative Hall*

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*VINCENNES, the home of the first Bank in Indiana*

## Stop 9

### *The Cathedral*



The original church was of logs set upon end, the mud in which had been mixed straw gathered from twenty by sixty feet in size, and was furnished with rude benches made from split timbers. Within its walls occurred the formal surrender of the Northwest Territory to Col. Clark following the fall of Fort Sackville. It had in its modest steeple a simple little bell by which the communicants were called to mass. This bell, since recast, is in the present church. It called the people of Old Vincennes to this church on that memorable occasion in December, 1778, when Father Gibault, the Patriot Priest of the Northwest, prevailed upon them to renounce the sovereignty of England and embrace the cause of American liberty. The bell is seldom used now, one of the last occasions being on November 11, 1919, when it proclaimed to the people of Vincennes the signing of the armistice concluding the World War. This famous bell has come to be known as the Liberty Bell of the Old Northwest.

Not only is this old church the mother of churches in Indiana, but, in a sense, it is the cradle in which the principles of American liberty in the Northwest were nurtured by loyal and patriotic servants, chief among whom was Father Gibault, who shares with George Rogers Clark and Francis Vigo the honor of adding this vast expanse of fertile lands to the domain of the original thirteen states.

*VINCENNES, the home of the first Brick Building in Indiana*



Interior of the Cathedral



Chapel in the Crypt of the Cathedral, Where Lie the Remains  
of the Early Bishops

*The first Court held in Indiana was at VINCENNES*

## Stop 10



### *The Old French Cemetery*

In the beautiful burial grounds of the Old Cathedral lie the remains of many devoted members of that early church which stood within this hallowed ground—priests, laymen, patriots.

Here were laid to rest the men who received their death wounds at the Battle of Tippecanoe, brought down the river in barges.

Near the center of the cemetery is the grave of the first public school teacher of the Northwest Territory. When, in 1774, President Washington recommended that Congress pay an annuity of \$200.00 to maintain the Catholic priest at Vincennes, Rev. Father John B. Rivet was appointed. On May 1, 1795, he entered upon his duties as spiritual director and teacher, not only of the French but of the various tribes of Indians in the vicinity.

Father Rivet was well fitted for the work before him. Broadminded, kindly, full of zeal, well educated, having been instructed in the famous Sulpician Seminary at Limoges, France, but with missionary zeal he gave up all the culture and comforts of his native land to teach the Indians and French scattered throughout this territory. The small pittance promised by the government was not regularly or promptly paid, causing the good father much distress and privation, which at last caused his death February 24, 1804.

And so the first public school teacher of Indiana lies buried in the cemetery adjoining the Old Cathedral, but nothing remains to mark the spot.

Time has not dealt kindly with the markers—most of them wooden crosses—yet here and there may be seen stone or marble slabs with quaint inscriptions.

*The first College in Indiana was at VINCENNES*

## Stop 11

### *Site of Fort Sackville*



A fort was maintained at Vincennes almost from the time of the settlement of the town. Indeed, some historians assert that the fortification was established first. In any event, it is certain that from a very early date the French maintained a fortification here to secure and protect their claim to the vast territory of which the Wabash was the highway.

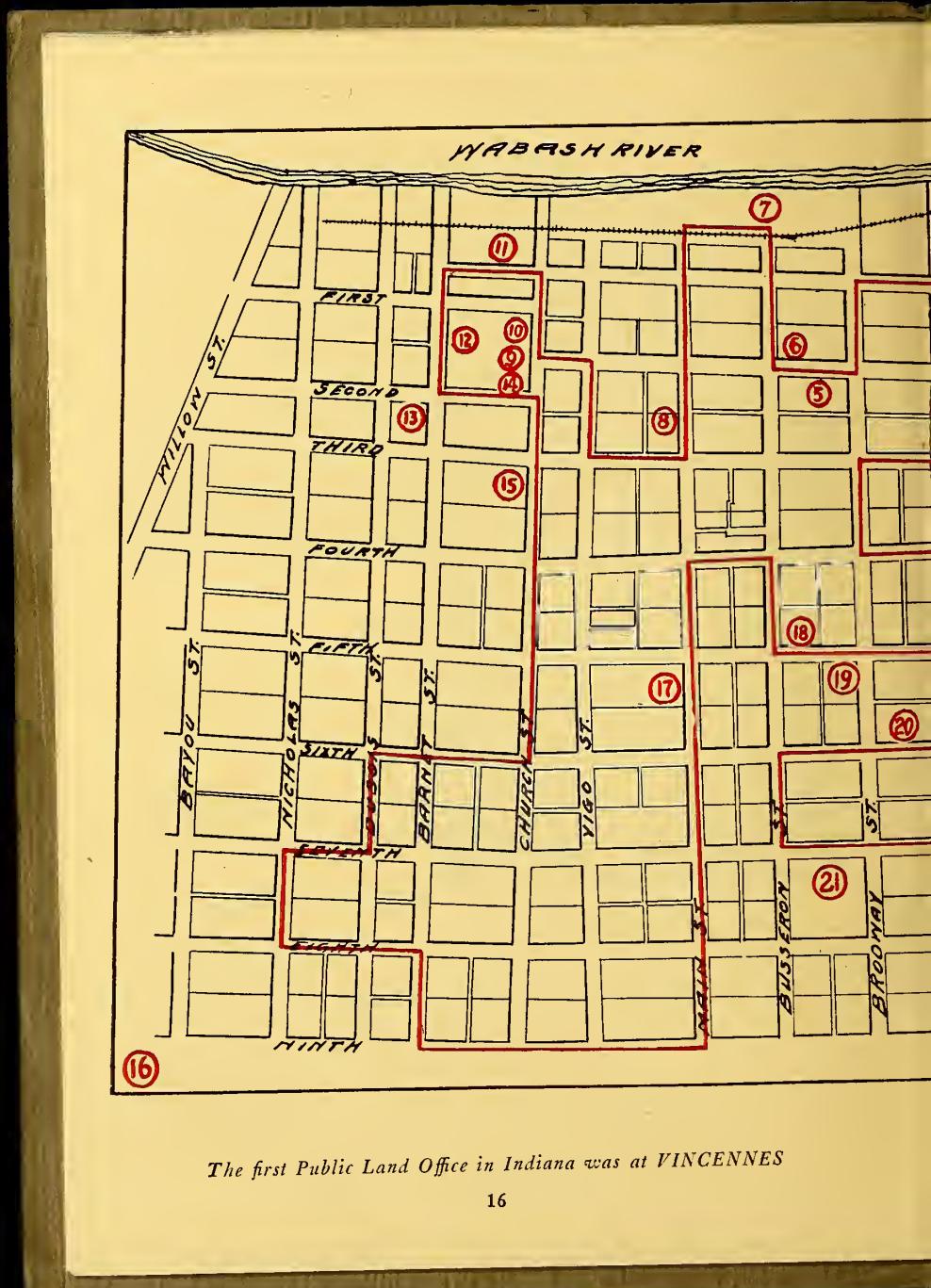
This fort is famous in American history by reason of the fact that by its capture from the British by Col. George Rogers Clark on February 25, 1779, the American colonies came into possession of that vast expanse of territory out of which were carved the great states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. From the standpoint of the amount of territory which changed hands because of the outcome of a single engagement, this was probably the greatest military victory in the history of the world; certainly no richer nor more valuable domain was ever taken in any other battle.

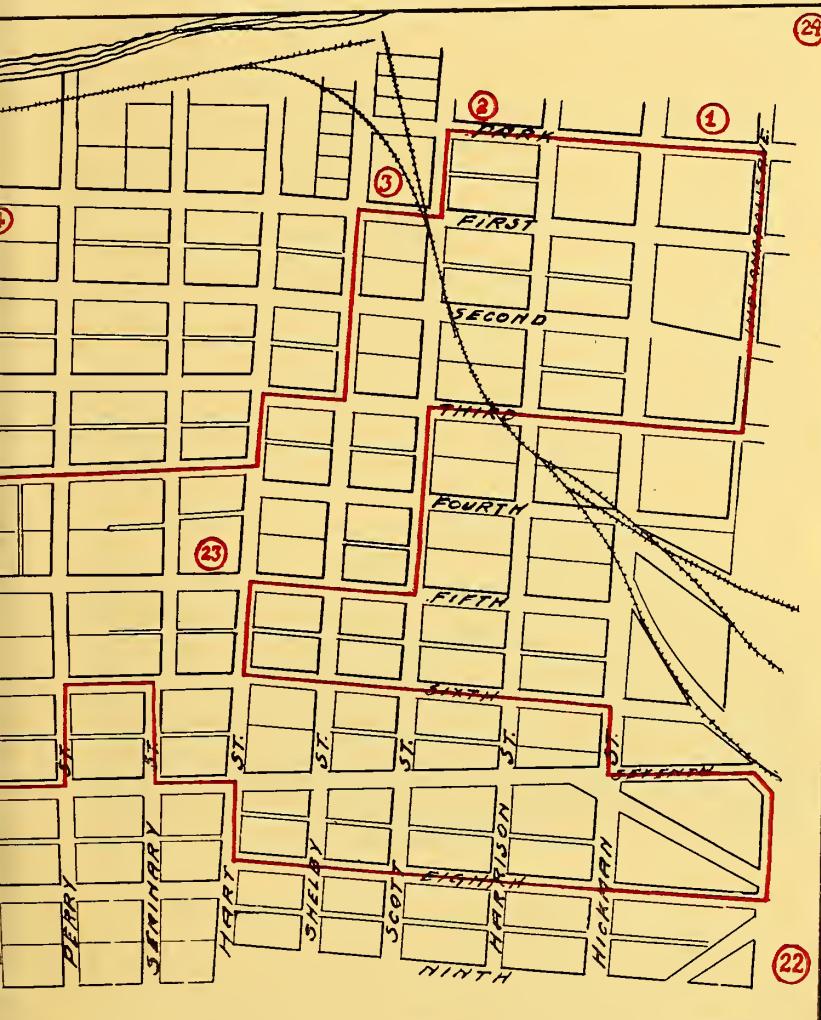
At the time of its capture the fort was called Fort Sackville by the British as a compliment to Sir Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset, a distinguished scholar, statesman and diplomat. After the capitulation of the British it was named Fort Patrick Henry in honor of the distinguished orator, who was then governor of Virginia.

The modest marker that now identifies the site of this historic fort was placed on November 18, 1905, by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The incidents connected with the capture of the fort have been woven into a beautiful romance by Maurice Thompson in his well-known novel, "Alice of Old Vincennes."

*The first Public School in Indiana was at VINCENNES*





*The first Post Office in Indiana was at VINCENNES*

## Stop 12

### *Where the Women of Vincennes Served Meals to the Soldiers of Col. Clark*

On this historic spot, which, perhaps, has changed as little in appearance as any other place in Vincennes, the housewives of the Old Post served meals to the worn and famished soldiers of Col. Clark following the capture of Fort Sackville in 1779. No doubt this evidence of hospitality was deeply appreciated by the Virginians. They had just undergone most severe hardships and exposure in their march from Kaskaskia through a flooded wilderness. Their supply of rations had been most scant, sometimes wholly depending upon wild game found on the march.

The act of the women of Vincennes in thus administering to the wants of the American soldiers is proof of the fact that the French inhabitants were already in sympathy with the Colonies in the revolutionary conflict.

## Stop 13



### *Site of the Supposed Home of Alice of Old Vincennes*

Nothing has done more to arouse the interest of the people generally in the history of the Old Post than Maurice Thompson's famous story, "Alice of Old Vincennes." This stop indicates the location of the home of the heroine of the novel. Those who read the book may readily locate it, bearing in mind the situation of the river, the fort and the church. The building was torn down several years ago.

*First Live Stock Insurance Company in the World organized at VINCENNES*

## Stop 14



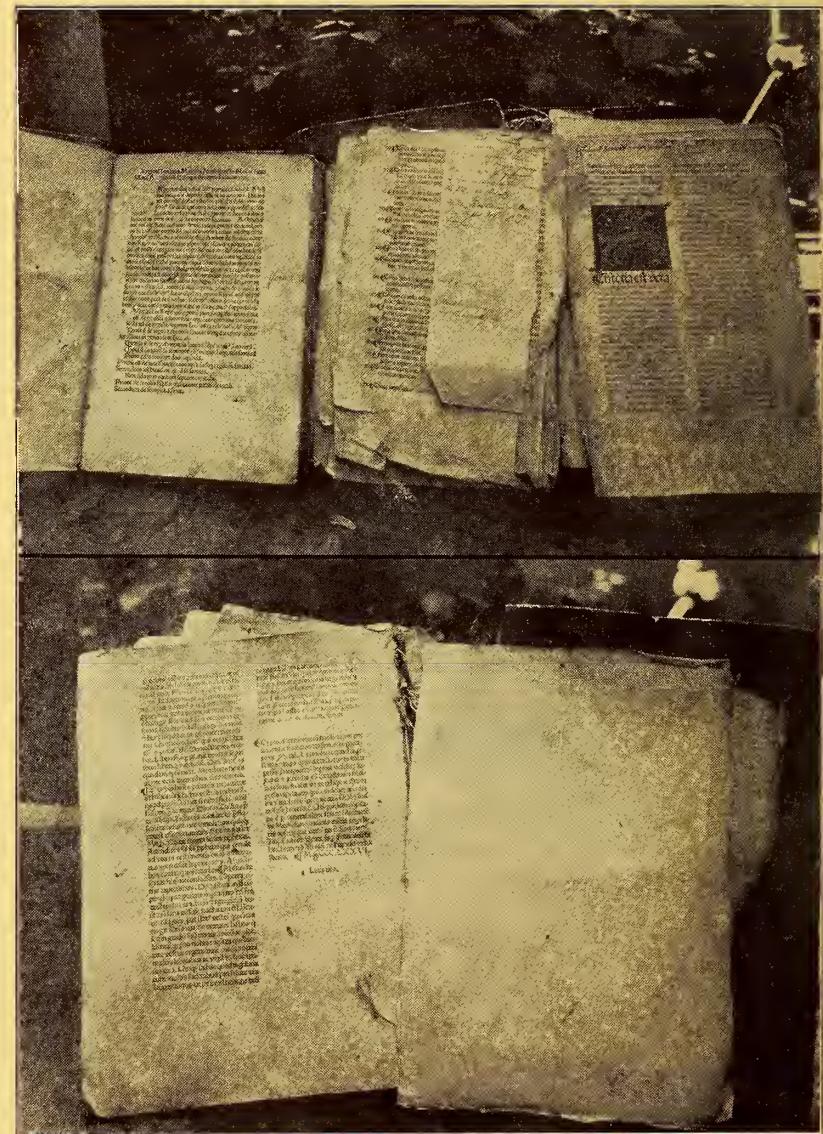
### *The Old Cathedral Library*

The Cathedral Library is the oldest library in the state of Indiana and contains 5,000 volumes, half of which were printed before 1700, and the other half, with few exceptions, before 1800. Father Gibault's Missale or Mass Book, used by him in 1778 and published in 1688, formed the nucleus for this library. The oldest books on its shelves bear the dates 1476, 1477, 1483 and 1489. An original book of sermons, embellished with illuminated initial letters in red and blue on a gold background, is a priceless treasure. The exquisite tracery of vine and flower, bird and fruit, done with the pen, show the loving skill of those artistic monks who devoted their lives and talents to this wonderful art. Here are to be found dictionaries and geographies published from 1636 to 1665, (the United States government has borrowed some of these maps for procuring copies to be preserved in the Congressional Library,) voyages and discoveries by Champlain, 1619, Pere Hennepin and Charlevoix, letters recording events among the missions of America as early as 1608 to 1673.

Besides numerous Bibles there are books on history, philosophy, geography, biography, theology, law, political economy and general literature in Greek, Arabic, Hebrew, Latin and French. Besides the classified documents there are parchment prints, engravings and maps. Among the relics in the library is the Bible of Mother Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity in America. It was published in 1813 and was given by her to Bishop Brute, the first Bishop of Vincennes, to whom most of the oldest and best books belonged. Other precious treasures are the "Ecce Homo" by Guido Rene, a fine miniature of the illustrious Cardinal Rohan, Prince of Leon, and an original letter written by St. Vincent de Paul on Easter, 1660.

In this library are preserved the parish records, which go back in an unbroken series to June 23, 1749. Other records kept on loose sheets of paper bear the dates of 1660, 1702, 1707 signed by early missionaries.

*VINCENNES has been the home of two Presidents—Harrison and Taylor*



Oldest Book in Indiana. Printed 1476 and in the Cathedral Library.

## Stop 15



### *Site of the Home of Madame Godare, the Betsy Ross of the Northwest Territory*

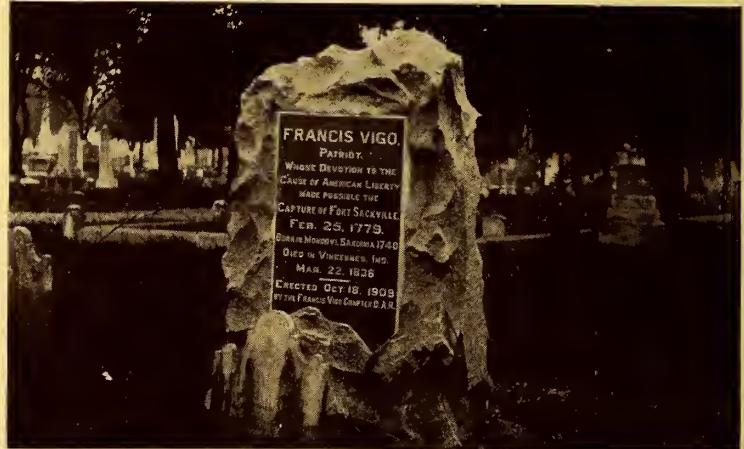
The story of Betsy Ross, who made the first American flag for General Washington, is well known to every school boy and girl. In Philadelphia her home is maintained as an historic shrine. How few know that the Old Northwest Territory had a Betsy Ross of her own in the person of Madame Godare! A member of one of the first French families to settle here, it fell her lot to make the flag with which General Clark replaced the British colors after the fall of Fort Sackville. In General Clark's financial account rendered to the state of Virginia he makes a charge for goods purchased to enable Madame Godare to make the flag.

Madame Godare's American flag was red and green, instead of red, white and blue, but it was an American flag nevertheless, and was the first emblem of American liberty to be fanned by the breezes in all the vast territory from which five great states were carved. In the Old Cathedral Library may be seen an exact facsimile of Madame Godare's flag, made by Mrs. DeLisle, one of her descendants.

All honor to the Stars and Stripes and to Betsy Ross, whose dexterous fingers first formed them; but honor, too, to Madame Godare, who likewise served her country in this lonely outpost in the wilderness!

*VINCENNES was the first seat of the Diocese of Indiana*

## Stop 16



### *The Grave of Col. Francis Vigo*

Francis Vigo has been called by some writers the Robert Morris of the Northwest Territory. Before the time of the Revolution he had amassed a fortune in his tradings with the Indians. These resources he promptly made available to the American forces, and but for his wise administration of the finances Clark's expedition from Kaskaskia to Vincennes would have failed.

Always patriotic and generous, he placed his newly-erected home at the disposal of Governor William Henry Harrison upon his arrival here, until the Governor's Mansion could be completed. An ungrateful country delayed returning to him the money he had advanced and he died at an advanced age in extreme poverty. Later history has given to his memory the justice denied him in life. A street in Vincennes, a township in Knox County, and a county in Indiana bear his name.

In a quiet old cemetery here in Vincennes stands a rugged granite boulder on which is the following inscription:

FRANCIS VIGO,  
PATRIOT,  
WHOSE DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE OF  
AMERICAN LIBERTY  
MADE POSSIBLE THE  
CAPTURE OF FORT SACKVILLE, FEB. 25, 1779.  
BORN MONDIO, SARDINIA, 1740.  
DIED IN VINCENNES, INDIANA, MARCH 22, 1809.  
ERECTED OCTOBER 18, 1909,  
BY THE FRANCIS VIGO CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

*Largest Indian Mounds in the State of Indiana are at VINCENNES*

## Stop 17



### *The Bonner-Allen Mansion*

This fine old house, which stands near the corner of Main and Fifth streets, is one of the most perfect examples of colonial architecture to be found west of the Alleghany Mountains, the portico and panelled doorways being especially worthy of notice. It was built in 1842 by David Bonner, Esquire, a distinguished and elegant gentleman of the old school, who came to Vincennes from Frederick, Virginia. He sold the house in 1845 to Colonel Cyrus M. Allen.

Colonel Allen was a Kentuckian, a prominent lawyer and citizen, and his beautiful home became a center of gracious hospitality for many years—Abraham Lincoln having been one of his guests. The room which Lincoln occupied is now marked with a bronze plate.

In former days this house was surrounded by a beautiful garden, where the lilac and the syringia, the rose and the honeysuckle mingled their fragrance with the more practical perfumes of the raspberry, the golden gooseberry and the purple grape.

In 1915 this property was sold to Mr. George Gardner by Colonel Allen's granddaughter, Mrs. Lloyd Allen Johnson.

*Oldest Business Establishment in Indiana is in VINCENNES (Gardner's)*

## Stop 18

### *The Vincennes University*

The Ordinance of 1787, adopted for the government of the old Northwest Territory, contained this significant provision: "Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means

of education shall forever be encouraged." In consequence of this policy, Congress, on March 26, 1804, set apart an entire civil township of land in the Vincennes district for the establishment and maintenance of an institution of higher learning, to be known as "The Vincennes University." In 1806 the territorial legislature of Indiana created the Board of Trustees, naming among others William Henry Harrison, who became the first president of the board.

The university began operations in 1806, being the first college in the state and the oldest in the Northwest, with the exception of the Ohio University at Athens, Ohio, which was established under similar circumstances. An interesting feature of the original charter was a provision for educating Indian youths at the expense of the university.

In due time the university became the victim of political intrigue, and its rich heritage was confiscated by the state of Indiana and diverted to other purposes. It is now a junior college with a normal training department and fulfills a distinct educational purpose to the surrounding community.

Vincennes University was a pioneer in the matter of military training. About 1894 it established a cadet corps under a West Point graduate detailed by the War Department. When the Spanish-American War came, the cadet company was in a high state of efficiency. On the day following President McKinley's

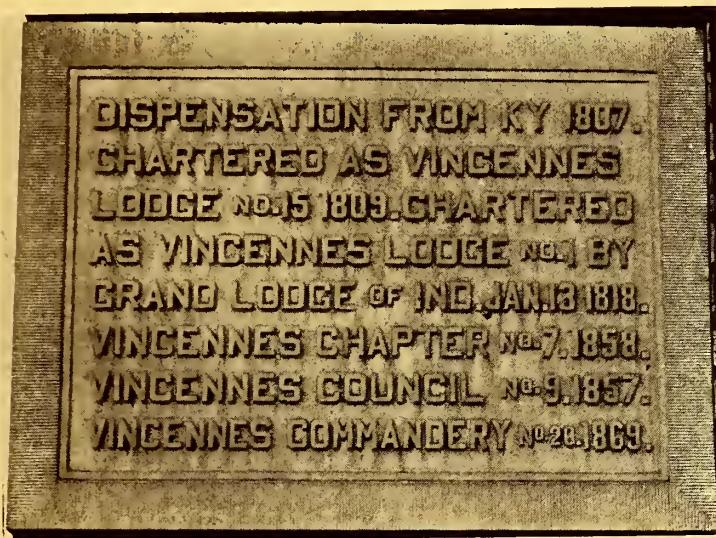
call for troops the cadets volunteered as a unit. On the following day their services were accepted by Governor Mount and they immediately went into the service of the government—the first company to offer its services to the state and the only full company offered by any state educational institution in the country. The company was known as Company L, 159th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

It is also of interest to know that the Sigma Pi fraternity, a men's national collegiate organization, was founded at Vincennes University on February 26, 1897. It has chapters in some of the largest institutions of the country, including Cornell, Tulane, and the universities of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Purdue, Iowa, Wisconsin, Utah and California.

*Benjamin Parke, first U. S. District Judge in Indiana, was from VINCENNES*



Stop 19



*Home of Vincennes Lodge No. 1 (Masonic)*

Vincennes Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest in the state of Indiana, and the oldest established lodge of continuous existence of the Northwest Territory.

It was organized under dispensation March 13, 1809, by and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and was given a charter August 31, 1809, as Vincennes Lodge No. 15.

After Indiana was admitted as a state, the Grand Lodge of Indiana, F. and A. M., was organized at Madison, Indiana, on January 13, 1818, and Vincennes Lodge, being the oldest within the jurisdiction, was given the designation as No. 1 of Indiana.

*First Historical Society organized in Indiana was at VINCENNES*

## Stop 20



### *The Jefferson Davis Boulder*

While Vincennes was yet maintained by the government of the United States as a military post, one of the commanders here was Captain Zachary Taylor, who afterwards distinguished himself in the Mexican War and became President. Many years ago a tradition obtained currency here that Captain Taylor had a charming daughter, Miss Sarah, and that at the same time young Jefferson Davis, then a lieutenant in the army, but afterwards the president of the Southern Confederacy, was stationed in Vincennes. As the story goes, Miss Sarah captivated the young lieutenant by her charms and they frequently took rides to the country beyond the highlands. It seems that they had had a favorite trysting place at a large boulder. A certain Jeremiah Donovan knew Lieutenant Davis and Miss Taylor and frequently saw them at this point.

It is a fact that Jefferson Davis did marry a daughter of General Taylor and that the General greatly opposed the match. The local legend is given color by virtue of the fact that many years afterwards Mr. Donovan had the boulder removed to what was then the yard of his home, where it has since remained.

*VINCENNES was first town in Indiana to be incorporated*

## Stop 21



### *The Knox County Court House and Soldiers' Monument*

The Knox County Court House, built in 1873-1874 at a cost of approximately \$360,000, was intended as an appropriate monument to the pioneers and soldiers of Knox County. It is said to be the first public building erected as a soldier memorial in the country. On the front of the building arises a marble tablet twenty-one feet high, capped with a molding bearing the monogram of the United States. This slab was designed to receive the names of the citizen soldiers of the county who had fallen in battle. On the opposite side of the building is a memorial to the pioneer settlers, in the form of a fine bas-relief representation of the setting sun behind the mountains and a frightened buffalo running away at the sound of the pioneer's axe. Above this stands the figure of George Rogers Clark. It is a fine piece of sculpture by Andrew Barrot of the city of Carrara, Italy. It is carved from one solid block of stone and weighs nearly four tons.

On a niche opposite the Clark statue is the figure of a Civil War soldier, standing at parade rest. On the Busseron Street side of the building, above the entrance, stands the figure of Justice. It is said that this piece of work was modeled after Donati de Bardi's famous piece in the Vatican collection at Rome. All the statues are more than nine feet in height.

On the northwest corner of the Court House Square stands a soldiers' monument erected in 1914 at a cost of \$50,000.

*First Medical Society in Indiana was at VINCENNES*

## Stop 22



### *The Mounds*

Visitors to Vincennes can well afford to take the time necessary to visit the prehistoric mounds situated near the corporate limits of the city. These are four in number and are the largest in the state. They are grouped in a semi-circle to the east and south of the city. One will be found at the intersection of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad with State Highways Nos. 5 and 10. The most picturesque is known as Sugar Loaf Mound, here pictured. It is on the Monroe City Road. The view of the city from its summit is very beautiful and well worth the climb to the top.

The largest mound is Pyramid, about a mile south of the city. It is of the conical type and is beautifully symmetrical. Several years ago Messrs. Jay Smith and Edward L. Townsley, of Vincennes, made extensive excavations in this mound. Several feet below the surface, before a bed of charcoal, were found the remains of a human skeleton. In the right hand was found a highly polished mussel shell and before it rested an excellent specimen of ancient pottery. This bowl was apparently made out of ground shells and clay, baked together. The skeleton is believed to have been the remains of a medicine man. On the east side of the mound another skeleton was found. Near the right hand were found eight arrow heads of the most perfect type. About the neck had been worn a necklace of the prongs of buck antlers. At the side of the head was found a stone tomahawk.

This entire collection of historic relics was donated to the Daughters of the American Revolution and is now on exhibition in the Harrison House.

*First Women's Club in Indiana to own its home was at VINCENNES*

## Stop 23



### *St. Rose Academy*

St. Rose Academy stands upon historic ground. No building in Vincennes ever witnessed so many vicissitudes as the old St. Rose. The first Vincennes University, built in 1807, it became successively the territorial legislative hall, a college for young men, a seminary for students of the priesthood, an orphanage home, first for boys, then for girls, and finally St. Rose Academy.

It was upon this site the first university building stood. It was a frame structure forty by sixty feet, a story and a half high. Among the distinguished men who served on the Board of Trustees were General William Henry Harrison, Luke Decker, Nathaniel Ewing, Benjamin Parke, Henry Vanderburg and Francis Vigo. It was a grammar school and was supported by tuition and from funds received from lottery tickets, which were sold in neighboring states. It is supposed that the brick building illustrated above was erected in 1811, and it is said to have been the second brick building erected in Vincennes—the first being the Harrison House, built in 1804. The Territorial Legislature met in the halls of this building in 1811. It was used as a hospital in 1812, and again in 1861 it sheltered the soldiers of the Nineteenth Illinois Regiment. The university was the subject of much legislation. It finally became involved in a debt of \$1,800 and the building was sold on October 24, 1839, to Bishop de la Hailandiere for \$6,500. It then became St. Gabriel's College for young men and a seminary for students of the priesthood.

In 1844 it was used by the orphan boys of the diocese, and afterwards by the orphan girls. In 1875 the orphanage became a school for girls under the name of St. Rose Academy. It has always held a high place among the schools of the city. The old St. Rose was demolished in 1884 and the present building erected immediately thereafter.

*Oldest Book in Indiana is in Cathedral Library at VINCENNES*

## Stop 24



### *Fort Knox*

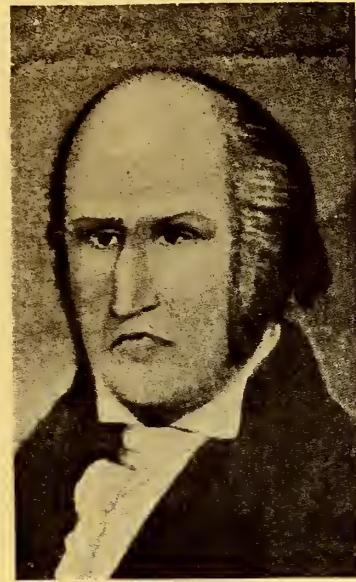
Fort Knox, established in 1788, was situated on a wooded knoll overlooking a bend in the Wabash River, three miles above Vincennes. In 1803 the government received a deed for approximately eighty-three acres of land for the purpose of maintaining a post or garrison. The land was purchased from Toussaint DuBois, for whom DuBois County, Indiana, was named. The fort was discontinued about 1815 or 1816, when the government property and stores were removed to Fort Harrison, near Terre Haute.

The site of Fort Knox seems to have been a favorite with the Indians, even before the advent of the white man. Evidences that it was used by them as a burial ground may yet be seen. Many relics of the early days have been found by the farmers who till the soil near the old fort grounds. Arrowheads and axes, grapeshot of different sizes, hand-made hinges and nails, and lead buttons, showing that they belonged to United States soldiers of the First Regiment, have been found. Many of these relics have been preserved and are now on display at the Harrison House in Vincennes. There is a tradition that while the Federal troops were stationed at Fort Knox great quantities of gold and silver coin were buried somewhere in the wilds that surrounded it, and that many years afterwards strangers came and recovered the hidden wealth and departed as mysteriously as they came.

In the *Western Sun* of June 15, 1811, appears this reference to an unfortunate incident in connection with the garrison of the post:

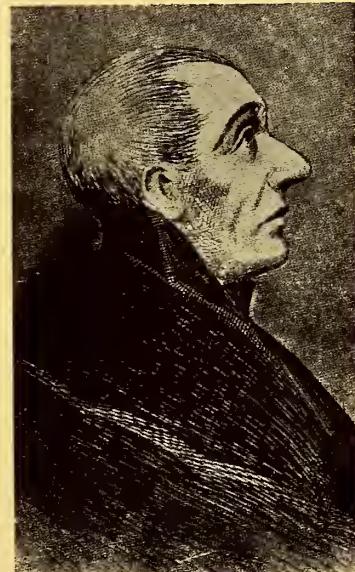
"We have the disagreeable task to inform our readers of an unfortunate affair which took place Monday last at the garrison of Fort Knox. Captain Thornton Posey shot Lieutenant Jesse Jennings dead on the spot."

*VINCENNES renowned in Fiction of many Authors*



### *George Rogers Clark*

General Clark was born in Virginia, only a mile and a half from the home of Thomas Jefferson. During the darkest days of the Revolution he conceived the idea of striking boldly at the British possessions in the Mississippi Valley. Encouraged by Jefferson and commissioned by Patrick Henry, then the governor of the state, he mustered an army of barely 175 militiamen and set forth. His first objective was Kaskaskia, near the site of the present city of East St. Louis. Having taken it, he proceeded to Vincennes and captured it on February 25, 1779, thereby obtaining for the American colonies an unquestionable claim upon the great Mississippi Valley. He died in want on February 13, 1818, and is buried at Louisville, Kentucky.



### *Father Gibault*

Pierre Gibault, born in Canada in 1737, justly deserves the title of "The Patriot Priest of the Northwest." It was his influence that won the French inhabitants of Old Vincennes over to the cause of American liberty, even before Clark's campaign reached the Old Post. He was a priest, a patriot and a diplomat. He died at New Madrid, Mo., in 1804. His remains were removed to Canada, where they rest in an unmarked grave.

*Flags of three greatest World Powers have flown over VINCENNES*



## *William Henry Harrison*

William Henry Harrison was a Virginian. As the governor of the Indiana Territory it became his task to make the country safe from the attacks of savage Indians and to establish a form of civil government. He is best known for his campaigns against the Indian Chief Tecumseh, whose forces he conquered at the Battle of Tippecanoe. The fame which he gained from these encounters made him President of the United States in 1841. He served only a short time, however, until he died. His tomb is at North Bend, Ohio. He was the grandfather of President Benjamin Harrison.



## *Francis Vigo*

Francis Vigo has been called the Robert Morris of the Northwest. His wise administration of the finances of Clark's campaign from Kaskaskia to Vincennes made possible the capture of Vincennes. A Sardinian by birth, he accumulated a considerable fortune from trading with the Indians, but died a victim of abject poverty. The expense of his burial was not paid until forty years after his death, at which late hour the United States government made a settlement with his heirs for the financial aid given George Rogers Clark during the Revolution. Born 1740; died 1809.

*VINCENNES, capture of which in 1779, important Revolutionary event*





The complete narrative of Vincennes might be recited only by an historian who had delved profoundly among the archives of other countries and colonies; France, England, the provincial records of Canada, and the Revolutionary data of Virginia. Its history has been the history of the Old Northwest. "It has been the prize for which nations have played," said the eloquent John Law in his young manhood, on February 22, 1839, when he delivered by invitation an address before the old Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society, organized in 1808; "the prize for which princes have contended. France, England and the States have, in turn, held it in subjection, have governed it with their laws and regulated it with their codes civil or military."

A unique phase of its history (frequently overlooked among so many other outstanding events, yet none the less peculiar—almost anomalous) is the disposition, allotment and settlement of the public lands within what was known as the Vincennes Land District; and intimate interest is derived from this topic when discussed by Judge Law in a separate chapter appended to a published reprint (1858) of his original address.

Subject as the citizens of the Old Post have been to the three greatest powers of the world, exclusive of colonial dependence on France, England, Virginia and the United States, each of whom had had military possession of the place and had regulated its civil government, it might readily be supposed that its titles and laws have been as variant as the codes of those three nations to whom in turn they owed allegiance. Their titles have been regulated as well by "les Coutumes de Paris" (Customs of Paris), as by the Common Law of England or the Statutes of the United States.

Each authority made grants to the 'ancient inhabitants' who have for the most part held possession under titles derived therefrom and at different subsequent times confirmed by the Federal government. It was

justly appropriate that this should be done, and although doubtless many claims were allowed which were not of strict legitimacy, yet their long possession, previous occupancy, and prior rights—even though no written grant or concession could be shown—made it the duty of the general government, after the cession by Virginia, to give these property holders—where it could possibly be done—a title which from that time would be unquestioned.

There being no public records then in Vincennes, whenever grants or concessions were made, they passed by 'delivery,' and possession of the land or lot was at least *prima facie* evidence of title, since a large percentage of the settlers could neither read nor write. The metes and bounds of these concessions were far from accurately defined, the well-meaning and honest 'habitant' taking about the quantity which he deemed was his under terms of the grant, which was generally so many 'toises' (fathoms) or 'arpents' (acres) as the case might be, 'more or less.'

Action for ejectment was unknown in primitive times. If a claim for encroachment was alleged the line was determined by arbitration of the neighbors, or by order of the commandant, whose decree was a finality from which there was no appeal. Even the original concessions themselves, made by the English or French post commanders, were commonly drawn upon small scraps of paper which it was customary to deposit—if placed anywhere—in the notary's office. He kept no official record but transcribed the most important documents to other loose sheets which in lapse of time and change of government came into the hands of those who fraudulently destroyed them; or, thinking them of slight consequence, carelessly lost them.

Under the "Customs of Paris," which governed these titles they were considered a family inheritance and often descended to women and children. In one instance during the administration of St. Ange, who was commandant at the Post in 1774, a royal notary ran off with all the public papers in his custody. A let-

The way Judge Law states it to have been done is this: "Three of the four judges were left on the bench while one retired. The court then made a grant of so many 'leagues' of land to their absent colleague, which was entered of record. He returned as soon as the grant was recorded, and another of the ermined gentlemen left, the bench while the Chief Justice and other Judges made a similar grant to their absent friend. After the grant was made and duly recorded, he returned; the third departed, and a similar record was made for his benefit; and so with the fourth. In this wholesale transfer of the public land—if continued—Virginia would have had but a small donation to make her sister States of the confederation when she gave up 'for the common benefit' the empire she held in the north-western territory."

Illustrating the loose mode in which the survey of town lots was made, Law quotes verbatim several examples of description, from which it must be wondered how a pioneer civil engineer with compass and chain was ever able to run these ancient boundaries. In July, 1790, he found this concession: "Reverend Pierre Gibault, a lot about fourteen toises, one side to Mr. Millelet, another to Mr. Vaudrey, and to two streets."

Two tracts granted to Judge Henry Vanderburgh are described as: "A piece of land, twelve arpents more or less, a part of sundry fields, formerly the lands of the Piankeshaws, lying at the east of the village. A piece of land containing two fields joining each other, on the old Indian village, sixty toises on one side, forty on the other, bounded in front by the street where du Betz lives, and on the rear partly by the fields of Allebomane, and partly by that of Nisbrache, part of Samuel Bradley's land on one side, and on the other the field of Saspacona and Nez du Carlin, sold by Nez du Carlin to Pierre Gamelin."

Among numerous concessions made to Colonel Francis Vigo, are the following: "Three pieces of land in the old Indian village, sold by Montour and other chiefs to Spring and Busseron in May, 1786. Five pieces of land formerly held by 'the Kettle Carrier,' sold by 'Quiquilaquia,' the grandson of 'Kettle Carrier,' with the approbation of Montour and the other chiefs. Five pieces of land in the old Plankeshaw town at Vincennes, sold by Montour."

A name familiar in southwestern Indiana is that of Luke Decker, who was granted: "A lot twenty-five toises by fifty-one, one side of Sullivan, and three sides to streets; a tract of two acres in front by forty deep, on river 'du Chi,' one side to Martin. This tract is said to have been by French concession, but none has been produced. His house is built thereon."

"Robert Buntin—A house and lot in Vincennes, front to the Wabash, back to the Indian fields, one side by 'Maonaman,' on the other by 'Francis the Catspaw,' about one acre in length each way." "For the Church—Four arpents front upon the Wabash, by the usual depth; a lot where the church stands, about twenty toises, for the church or Mr. Antoine Gamelin." "The widow of Peter Grimare—A house and lot, the boundaries not expressed (!) but to be surveyed agreeably to possession (!), not interfering with the streets."

ter which Judge Law quotes, dated at Vincennes July 21, 1790, written to President Washington by Winthrop Sargent, acting Territorial Governor in the absence of General Arthur St. Clair, says of the procedure in the office of Le Grand, notary from 1776 to 1778, "that the records have been so falsified, and there is such gross fraud and forgery as to invalidate all evidence and information which I might otherwise have acquired from the papers."

Some time in the year 1779, after the surrender of Fort Sackville to General George Rogers Clark, the Executive and Legislative Council of Virginia sent out to the Wabash Colonel John Todd, literally "clothed in a little brief authority," since he remained but a short time in Vincennes, passing on to Kaskaskia and appointing Le Gras as Lieutenant-Governor in his place.

"During his sojourn, however, he played some fantastic tricks," Law's chapter relates, "and assumed prerogatives in reference to the public lands by no means to be derived from his gubernatorial powers as the representative of Virginia in her newly acquired territory. Before he was appointed, Virginia by act of legislation had expressly declared 'that lands northwest of the Ohio

were pre-empted from location, and no person should be allowed pre-emption, or any benefit whatever from settling the same,' and the Governor was directed 'to issue his proclamation forbidding all persons from settling on them, and in case of disobedience to make use of force to remove them.'

Notwithstanding this, in 1779 from Kaskaskia, Todd issued a proclamation describing the fertility and beauty of the valley of the Wabash, and strongly intimating that "authority was meant to be impiled"—if not expressly given by Virginia to the Governor—to make grants of land; that the executive authority under Virginia in the Northwest Territory had the same right to make concessions of land as was claimed by the French and British commandants.

Le Gras, Todd's substitute at the "Old Post," seemed to have fewer scruples upon the subject of this right than had his superior, the Governor. Not only did he exercise the power of disposing of the public domain himself, but he further delegated it to the County Court, composed of four judges organized under the act of Virginia, who held their sessions at Vincennes. These did a wholesale business in the way of disposing of the domain, not only to other but to themselves; not only by the arpent, but by leagues.

Besides these tracts surveyed under grants or concessions made by former French or English commandants, and "Locations" under what were called militia rights and thus confirmed by Congress, there were the "Donation Tracts," which should have some brief special comment.

By an act of Congress, approved March 3, 1791, four hundred acres of land was given to "each of those persons who, in 1783, were heads of families at Vincennes, or in the Illinois country on the Mississippi, and who, since that time, have removed from one of said places to the other;" and the Governor of the Territory Northwest of the Ohio was directed "to lay out the same for them, either at Vincennes or in the Illinois country, as they shall severally elect."

"Never," declares Law, "were a set of men more justly entitled to this grant than the old French settlers at Vincennes and on the Mississippi. Whether as subjects of 'Le Grand Monarque,' Louis XIV, or of George II and George III, as colonists under Virginia or citizens of the United States, they had been loyal and patriotic. The change of government seems to have made no great difference in their habits or manners; and as to their political opinions, isolated as they were from the rest of the world, a change of rulers troubled them but little.

"The revolutions of empires went

on without any knowledge of theirs, until it was made known to them by a personal acquaintance with the French mousquetaire, the English grenadier, the American rifleman, or the United States' regular. Submissive and obedient, they yielded to the powers that were, made no complaint, offered no resistance, cultivated their common fields, sang, danced, smoked their pipes, were regular at the morning matin and evening vespers, content to take this world as it went, and satisfied with the next if no worse than this. No people, perhaps, on the face of the globe were more contented or happy.

"True to their habits and instincts, these children of St. Louis were transferred from one government to another—to Great Britain, to Virginia, to the United States—without a murmur and without a thought of

the future. The records of the Land Office here (at Vincennes) show that after cession of the country by France to Great Britain in 1763, they took the oath of allegiance before Rumsey, Sub-Lieutenant of His Majesty's 42nd Regiment and Judge Advocate of the Province of Illinois, in 1768, sent out, as he himself asserts of the record, 'with power and authority to examine the land titles of the Province of Illinois, and administer the oath of allegiance to its inhabitants.'

"To Helms, sent out by Clark in 1778; to Hamilton, who captured Helms and re-took the place in December of the same year; to Clark, in 1779; to Harmar, St. Clair and Sargent on behalf of the United States. In the short space of twenty years, what changes were effected in the political condition of the inhabitants of the 'Post.' It has no parallel on the continent.

"Always brave, always obedient, always loyal, the idea of resistance to the powers that be' never entered the head of the ancient inhabitant. He smoked his pipe, looked at the change with indifference, and acknowledged the power and authority of his commandant, whether a Sub-Lieutenant of His Majesty's 42nd Regiment, a Captain of Virginia Riflemen, or a Commander-in-Chief of the United States troops for the Western Department. 'Tout le même chose' was the ready reply, as he took the oath, kissed the book, shrugged his shoulders and gave an additional whiff from his pipe. Happy, thrice happy people, into whose brains the treasonable doctrines of Secession or Nullification never entered."

# Tourist's Guide



Historic Vincennes



TOURIST'S GUIDE

*Historic  
Vincennes*



*Copyright 1925*  
The VINCENNES FORTNIGHTLY CLUB  
Vincennes, Indiana

*First Edition, 1923*  
*Second Edition, 1925*

## *The Fortnightly Trail*



THE Fortnightly Trail was established in the spring of 1923. The idea was originated, sponsored and financed by the Vincennes Fortnightly Club, an organization composed of two hundred club women. This Club was founded in 1891 and has the distinction of being the first woman's club in the state of Indiana to own its own home. The purpose of the Trail is primarily to make more accessible to tourists and visitors the many interesting historical points in Vincennes. The route leads directly to twenty-four of the most important places of historical interest. It also covers the central residence streets to the city and passes most of the churches and public buildings. It is five miles in length and follows paved streets with one or two exceptions.

The Trail connects with the main state and interstate highways entering the city, and it may be taken at any point and will lead back to the place of beginning.

This booklet does not attempt to be an exhaustive history. It simply serves to identify and give the salient facts concerning the several points of interest. Those who desire to further pursue the study of Vincennes history will find many interesting books on the subject in the Public Library.

The Club expresses its appreciation for the many courtesies extended it in this undertaking.

THE VINCENNES FORTNIGHTLY CLUB.

Vincennes, April, 1923.

## *The Place of Vincennes in American History*

**V**INCENNES is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the United States. She has lived under three flags, the flags of what are now the three greatest powers on earth. Born under France, matured under England, she became the parent of the American Union in the Northwest Territory and the mother of the great states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. She was the cradle of American world power. Because of the revolutionary battle fought on her soil, the Mississippi, instead of the Alleghanies, became our first western boundary. For many years after our independence, she was the veritable guardian of that independence, the frontier fortress, the Metz of the Mississippi, around whose waters France, England and the United States formed their foreign policies toward one another, both on this continent and at home. She was the pivot around which the wheel of American progress turned until Thomas Jefferson moved our western border to the Rockies. No other city has had a more varied participation in the great struggle for the possession of this continent.

No one yet knows when the first white men came here. The early romance of Vincennes remains in faded scraps here and there—little strands from the brocaded coat of the Old Dominion. One day far back in 1609, in the hush of these primeval woods, a black-robed Jesuit penned a letter to his mother in far-off France, speaking to her of his adventures among these

*VINCENNES was the first Capital of Indiana Territory*

strange savages of another world. He had come among them here two months before. This letter, yellowed with age remained in the Old Cathedral Library until it was stolen from the archives in 1873. A priest found among the old church records of St. Francis Xavier a memorandum in French of another Jesuit who had passed this way in 1689.

The tradition persists among the Vincennes French today that Juchereau de St. Denis, Canadian officer, carrying out the orders of Cadillac, Crozat's governor at Detroit, came along the Wabash in 1702 and left a band of Frenchmen at Post Vincennes, and, when he went on, left one Leonardi in command. Tradition is more than a mere legend. Father Gabriel Marest wrote from Kaskaskia on November 9, 1712, that the French had established a post on the Wabash and had asked for a missionary and that Father Mermet was sent them. The scholarly and conscientious Bishop Brûlé found among the records of the mission of St. Louis at Peoria, and the church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, at Kaskaskia, Illinois, and the Recorder's office at that place, evidence that Vincennes and the Catholic Church were in existence in 1708. The French of Vincennes in 1772 set up as a legal claim that their colony was of seventy years' standing.

Though the exact date of the establishment of the Old Post may always remain a mystery, to provoke the research of the student of historic lore, the place of the post in American History is firmly fixed.

## Stop 1



### *The Territorial Legislative Hall*

The first Indiana Territorial Legislature met in this building on July 9, 1805. It was then located on the present site of the First National Bank, at 217 Main Street. The first floor was occupied by the territorial official, and the assembly met on the second floor, which is reached by an outside stairway at one end of the building.

The exact age of the building has not been definitely determined. It was probably erected about the year 1800. Some seventy years ago it was removed from its original site to the east side of Third Street, near Harrison Park, where it was occupied as a residence until the Spring of 1919. The Vincennes Fortnightly Club, from motives of patriotic pride and local historical interest, by public subscription, then purchased the building and had it removed to its present location. It is gradually being restored to its original appearance and refurnished in keeping with the period in which it was used for official purposes.

This old building is, as a matter of fact, the first capitol of what is now the state of Indiana, since Indiana Territory was admitted into the Union of states in 1816.

*VINCENNES is the Oldest Town in Indiana*

## Stop 2



### *The William Henry Harrison Mansion*

By far the most important historic relic in Indiana is the Harrison House, the former home of General William Henry Harrison, who was the first governor of the Indiana Territory and the ninth president of the United States. This building, which with its grounds was called Grouseland by its owner, was erected between the years 1804 and 1806. It is said to have been the first building of burnt brick west of the Alleghanies. This house is very impressive because of its dignified appearance, its straight lines, and its simple, massive proportions. Neath one of its trees was held the famous conference with the great Tecumseh. The legend of the underground tunnel, the bullet hole in the shutter, the lookout from the attic, the ammunition room in the basement, the magnificent council chamber, and the beautiful winding staircase carry the visitor back to the romantic days of pioneer life in Old Vincennes.

The Francis Vigo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution purchased this home in 1916 from the Vincennes Water Supply Company, who, for business reasons, intended to tear down the old house. To this organization is due credit for the fact that this interesting monument to the past has been preserved for the future generations of Indiana. Each year sees important gifts of colonial furniture, of papers of historic value, or loans of valuable objects to this house, that has become a veritable museum. No one should pass through Vincennes without visiting the Harrison House. A caretaker is in charge who will gladly conduct visitors through the building. A small fee is charged, which, with the money secured from the sale of post-cards and booklets, go to the upkeep of the house.

*VINCENNES, the home of the first Catholic Church in Indiana*

## Stop 3

### *The Treaty Tree*

The "Governor's Mansion," erected in 1804 by General William Henry Harrison, and said to have been the first brick building west of the Alleghany Mountains, was originally surrounded by a large grove of magnificent walnut trees. The plantation was called "Grouseland," and with the river flowing on one side, and its vineyards and orchards in the rear, presented a picture long to be remembered.

It was under the trees comprising this grove that a treaty of peace was signed between General Harrison and the Indian Chief Tecumseh.

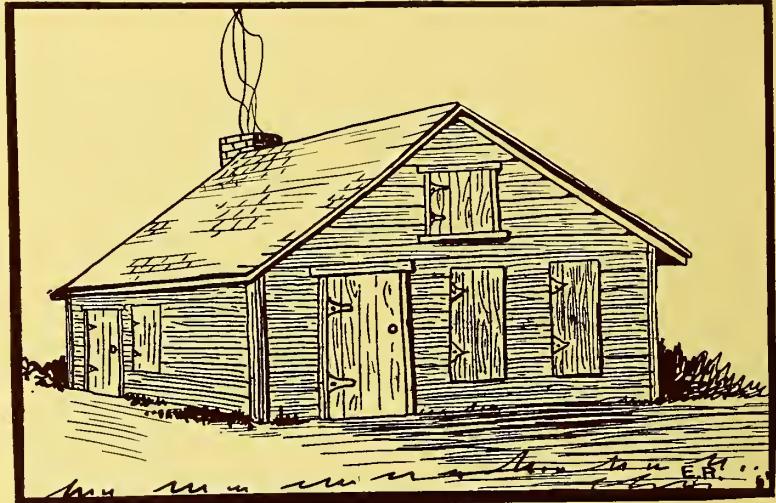
Of this extensive grove but a single survivor remains, a scarred and time-worn walnut, upon ground now owned by the Standard Oil Company. Through the generosity of this company, a beautiful bronze tablet has been placed upon this historic tree.



This memorial was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies by the Francis Vigo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, on October 1, 1920.

VINCENNES, the home of the first Presbyterian Church in Indiana

## Stop 4



### *Where the First Newspaper in Indiana Was Printed*

On this spot was printed the first newspaper established within the confines of the state of Indiana. It was established by Elihu Stout, who brought his supplies with pack horses from Frankfort, Kentucky. The first issue appeared, under the name of the *Indiana Gazette*, on July 31, 1804. After nearly two years the plant was destroyed by fire. When resumed, six months later, the name of the publication was changed to the *Western Sun*, under which name the paper is still issued. Stout purchased a site for his printery as shown in pen drawing in 1805.

When in March, 1830, Abraham Lincoln, as a youth of twenty-one years, spent three days in Vincennes on his way to make his future home in Illinois, he was much interested in the printing process as he observed it for the first time in the office of the *Western Sun*. Albert T. Reid, the noted illustrator, has drawn a picture representing the incident, which he calls "The Meeting of the Two Great Emancipators."

The paper has been in the possession of three families for 102 years of its 119 of existence, the present ownership extending since 1876. The daily edition was started in 1879 by R. E. Purcell.



VINCENNES, the home of the oldest Methodist Church in Indiana

## Stop 5



### *The Old Ellis Mansion (now the Pastime Club)*

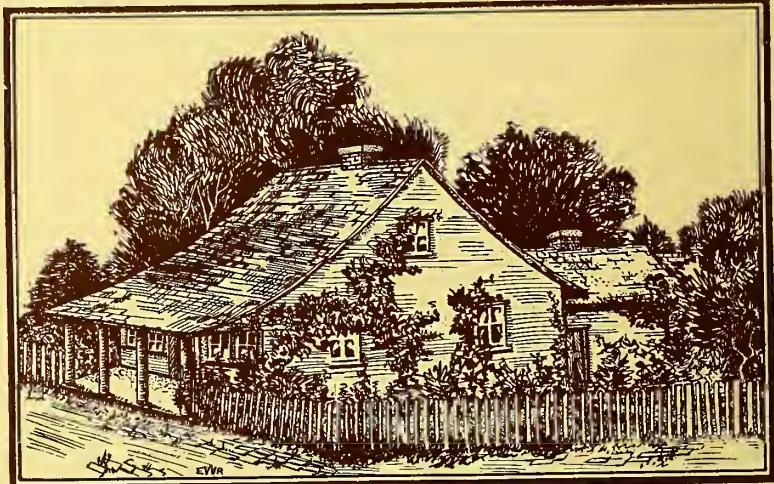
This imposing, old colonial mansion, now nearly a hundred years old, was built by Judge Abner T. Ellis, one of the distinguished citizens of Vincennes. The stonework is of native material, quarried laboriously by hand in this vicinity. Notwithstanding its great age and apparent softness, it is remarkably well preserved. The interior woodwork, wide fireplaces and high wainscoting are especially beautiful, being hand-carved cherry and black walnut. An interesting feature is an item scratched with a diamond in a delicate feminine hand on a window pane, to the effect that on a given date in 1849 Judge and Mrs. Ellis and daughter Miss Lucy went on a trip to St. Louis. The *Indiana Gazeteer*, a book published in 1849, describes this building as the finest residence in the state at that time.

Some seventy-five years ago Judge Ellis was one of the most progressive citizens of the state. He was a pioneer in the efforts to establish steamboat navigation on the Wabash River. He was also the promoter and first president of the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad (the predecessor to the B. & O.) The Judge was an intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln and frequently entertained him in this house. During the Clay Campaign in 1844 Lincoln visited Judge Ellis here, and on this occasion they rode on horseback to Bruceville, where the latter delivered a campaign speech.

The Ellis mansion is now the home and property of the Pastime Club, one of the exclusive social organizations of the city. This club was established in 1885 and takes a great pride in the traditions associated with its interesting club home.

**VINCENNES**, the home of the first Masonic Lodge in Indiana

## Stop 6



### *Site of the Home of Col. Francis Vigo*

About the year 1800, Col. Francis Vigo, the distinguished Revolutionary hero, of whom further mention is made elsewhere, having recently married Elizabeth Shannon, a comely lass, built a residence which was considered palatial for those days. The builder of the house, it is said, was given twenty guineas for completing it in time to enable its hospitable owner to tender it for occupancy to Gen. William Henry Harrison, who had just been appointed governor of the Indiana Territory. The governor, however, declined to occupy more than one room, and was assigned the parlor, the floor of which was laid in square blocks of white oak and black walnut in alternating rows. The furnishings of the parlor (as did those of the other rooms) harmonized with the elegance and beauty of the floor, and comprised, among the few pictures that hung upon the walls, a handsome oil painting of Thomas Jefferson.

Col. Vigo also possessed a boat, in which he made frequent voyages on the Wabash and Ohio rivers. This craft was as elegantly furnished and supplied as his home, the owner taking a peculiar pride in his personal belongings, silverware and linens.

*VINCENNES, the home of the first Newspaper in Indiana*

### Stop 7



#### *Site of the Old Ferry Where Lincoln Crossed in 1830*

In the Spring of 1830, the Lincoln family migrated from Spencer County, Indiana, to Sangamon County, Illinois. Vincennes was the largest city passed through on the journey, and three days were spent here. When the journey was resumed the river was crossed at a ferry at the foot of Busseron Street. In 1915 the state of Illinois fixed the route taken by Lincoln from this point to his new home.

The local chapter of the D. A. R. has, among many other interesting books and documents, the original records showing the holder of the ferry licenses issued at Vincennes as early as the year Lincoln crossed here.

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### Stop 8

#### *Original Site of the Old Legislative Hall*

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*VINCENNES, the home of the first Bank in Indiana*

## Stop 9

### *The Cathedral*

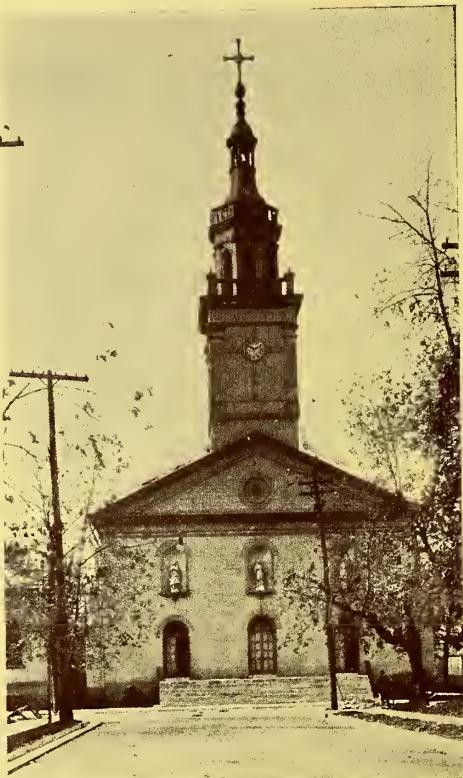
For nearly a century the solemn anthems of the Catholic Church have swept the lofty arches of the old Cathedral, and prince and peasant, savage and scholar have paid homage to God within its sacred portals. The spirit of the saintly priests and prelates who labored here for the love of God fill the dim old walls with sanctity and holiness, and the heart palpitates with thankfulness for their toil and sacrifice. With imposing ritual, five bishops have been installed within its sanctuary: the venerable Bishop Brute, Bishop De La Hailandiere, Bishop Bazin, Bishop De St. Palais and Bishop Chatard. Down its hallowed aisles have passed many young men "priests forever" after the sacred ceremony of Holy Orders. The solemn funeral dirge has been echoed and re-echoed, marking the last sad passage of an illustrious bishop as he was borne to his narrow bed in the crypt under the sanctuary. The great and the lowly have knelt at its quaint communion rail, and the majesty of time sheds a dignity and luster over all.

The Cathedral was built in 1826 by Father Champomier. The crypt or basement chapel under the sanctuary is the chief point of interest, as the earthly remains of the four deceased bishops of the Vincennes diocese are here interred. The present imposing edifice stands upon the spot where the first church was built, probably as early as 1702.

The original church was of logs set upon end, the spaces between being filled with mud in which had been mixed straw gathered from the prairies. It was approximately twenty by sixty feet in size, and was furnished with rude benches made from split timbers. Within its walls occurred the formal surrender of the Northwest Territory to Col. Clark following the fall of Fort Sackville. It had in its modest steeple a simple little bell by which the communicants were called to mass. This bell, since recast, is in the present church. It called the people of Old Vincennes to this church on that memorable occasion in December, 1778, when Father Gibault, the Patriot Priest of the Northwest, prevailed upon them to renounce the sovereignty of England and embrace the cause of American liberty. The bell is seldom used now, one of the last occasions being on November 11, 1919, when it proclaimed to the people of Vincennes the signing of the armistice concluding the World War. This famous bell has come to be known as the Liberty Bell of the Old Northwest.

Not only is this old church the mother of churches in Indiana, but, in a sense, it is the cradle in which the principles of American liberty in the Northwest were nurtured by loyal and patriotic servants, chief among whom was Father Gibault, who shares with George Rogers Clark and Francis Vigo the honor of adding this vast expanse of fertile lands to the domain of the original thirteen states.

*VINCENNES, the home of the first Brick Building in Indiana.*





Interior of the Cathedral



Chapel in the Crypt of the Cathedral, Where Lie the Remains  
of the Early Bishops

*The first Court held in Indiana was at VINCENNES*

## Stop 10



### *The Old French Cemetery*

In the beautiful burial grounds of the Old Cathedral lie the remains of many devoted members of that early church which stood within this hallowed ground—priests, laymen, patriots.

Here were laid to rest the men who received their death wounds at the Battle of Tippecanoe, brought down the river in barges.

Near the center of the cemetery is the grave of the first public school teacher of the Northwest Territory. When, in 1774, President Washington recommended that Congress pay an annuity of \$200.00 to maintain the Catholic priest at Vincennes, Rev. Father John B. Rivet was appointed. On May 1, 1795, he entered upon his duties as spiritual director and teacher, not only of the French but of the various tribes of Indians in the vicinity.

Father Rivet was well fitted for the work before him. Broadminded, kindly, full of zeal, well educated, having been instructed in the famous Sulpician Seminary at Limoges, France, but with missionary zeal he gave up all the culture and comforts of his native land to teach the Indians and French scattered throughout this territory. The small pittance promised by the government was not regularly or promptly paid, causing the good father much distress and privation, which at last caused his death February 24, 1804.

And so the first public school teacher of Indiana lies buried in the cemetery adjoining the Old Cathedral, but nothing remains to mark the spot.

Time has not dealt kindly with the markers—most of them wooden crosses—yet here and there may be seen stone or marble slabs with quaint inscriptions.

*The first College in Indiana was at VINCENNES*

## Stop 11

### *Site of Fort Sackville*



A fort was maintained at Vincennes almost from the time of the settlement of the town. Indeed, some historians assert that the fortification was established first. In any event, it is certain that from a very early date the French maintained a fortification here to secure and protect their claim to the vast territory of which the Wabash was the highway.

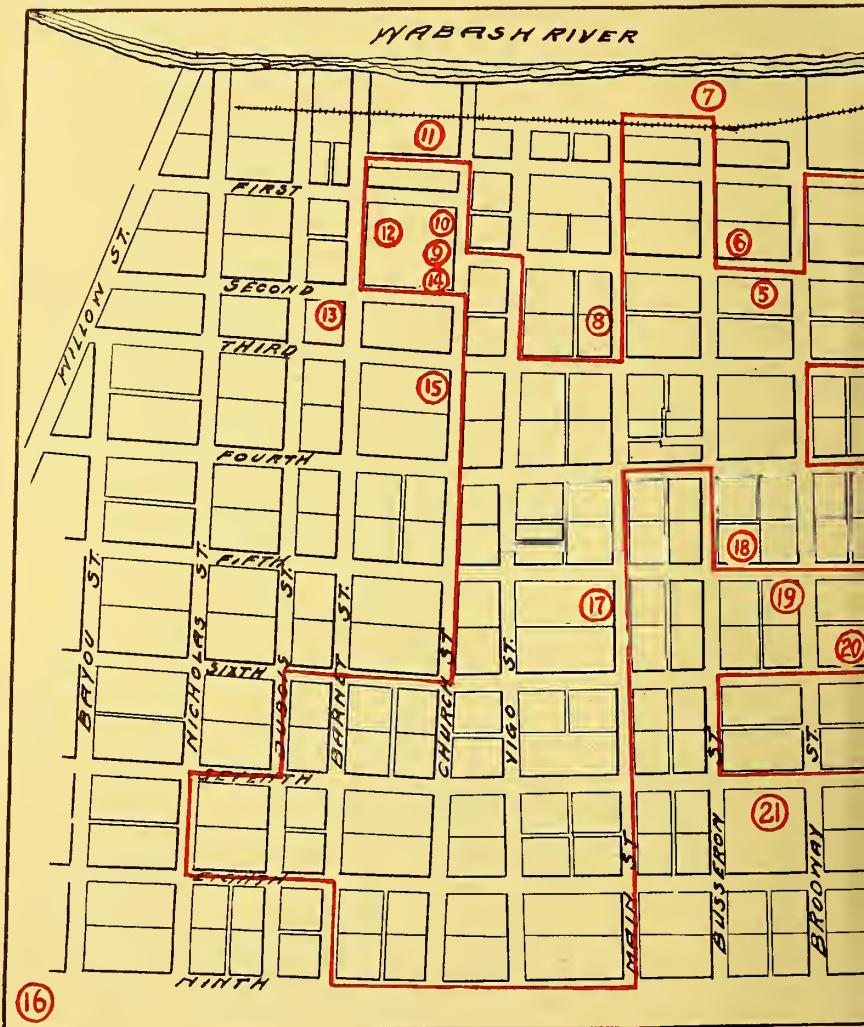
This fort is famous in American history by reason of the fact that by its capture from the British by Col. George Rogers Clark on February 25, 1779, the American colonies came into possession of that vast expanse of territory out of which were carved the great states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. From the standpoint of the amount of territory which changed hands because of the outcome of a single engagement, this was probably the greatest military victory in the history of the world; certainly no richer nor more valuable domain was ever taken in any other battle.

At the time of its capture the fort was called Fort Sackville by the British as a compliment to Sir Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset, a distinguished scholar, statesman and diplomat. After the capitulation of the British it was named Fort Patrick Henry in honor of the distinguished orator, who was then governor of Virginia.

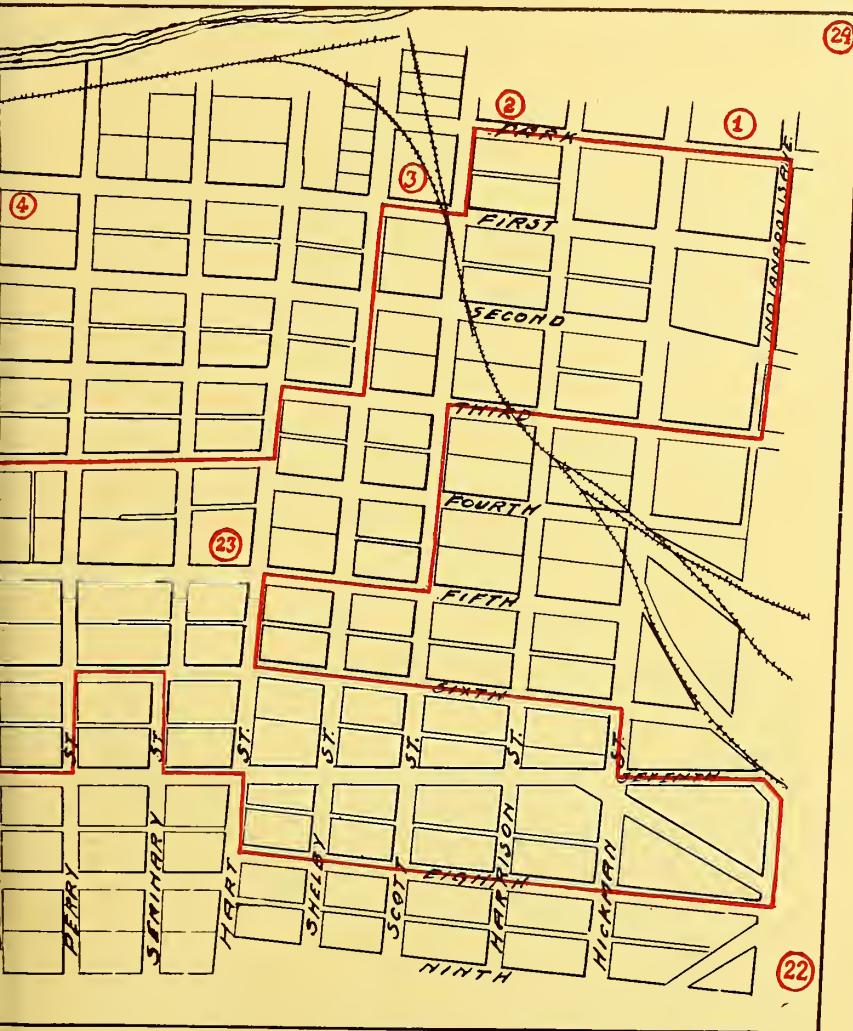
The modest marker that now identifies the site of this historic fort was placed on November 18, 1905, by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The incidents connected with the capture of the fort have been woven into a beautiful romance by Maurice Thompson in his well-known novel, "Alice of Old Vincennes."

*The first Public School in Indiana was at VINCENNES*



*The first Public Land Office in Indiana was at VINCENNES*



*The first Post Office in Indiana was at VINCENNES*

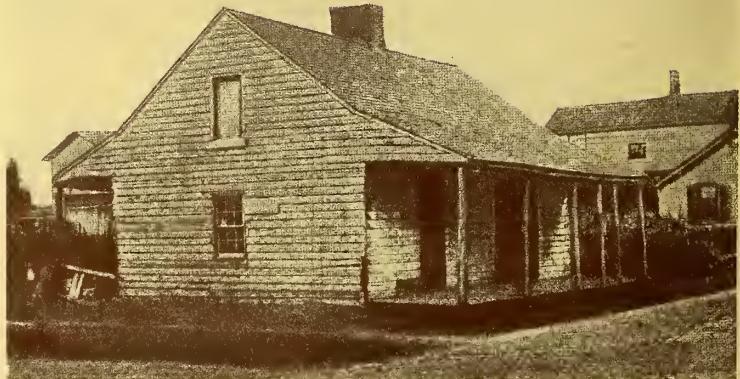
### Stop 12

#### *Where the Women of Vincennes Served Meals to the Soldiers of Col. Clark*

On this historic spot, which, perhaps, has changed as little in appearance as any other place in Vincennes, the housewives of the Old Post served meals to the worn and famished soldiers of Col. Clark following the capture of Fort Sackville in 1779. No doubt this evidence of hospitality was deeply appreciated by the Virginians. They had just undergone most severe hardships and exposure in their march from Kaskaskia through a flooded wilderness. Their supply of rations had been most scant, sometimes wholly depending upon wild game found on the march.

The act of the women of Vincennes in thus administering to the wants of the American soldiers is proof of the fact that the French inhabitants were already in sympathy with the Colonies in the revolutionary conflict.

### Stop 13



#### *Site of the Supposed Home of Alice of Old Vincennes*

Nothing has done more to arouse the interest of the people generally in the history of the Old Post than Maurice Thompson's famous story, "Alice of Old Vincennes." This stop indicates the location of the home of the heroine of the novel. Those who read the book may readily locate it, bearing in mind the situation of the river, the fort and the church. The building was torn down several years ago.

*First Live Stock Insurance Company in the World organized at VINCENNES*

## Stop 14



### *The Old Cathedral Library*

The Cathedral Library is the oldest library in the state of Indiana and contains 5,000 volumes, half of which were printed before 1700, and the other half, with few exceptions, before 1800. Father Gibault's Missale or Mass Book, used by him in 1778 and published in 1688, formed the nucleus for this library. The oldest books on its shelves bear the dates 1476, 1477, 1483 and 1489. An original book of sermons, embellished with illuminated initial letters in red and blue on a gold background, is a priceless treasure. The exquisite tracery of vine and flower, bird and fruit, done with the pen, show the loving skill of those artistic monks who devoted their lives and talents to this wonderful art. Here are to be found dictionaries and geographies published from 1636 to 1665, (the United States government has borrowed some of these maps for procuring copies to be preserved in the Congressional Library), voyages and discoveries by Champlain, 1619, Pere Hennepin and Charlevoix, letters recording events among the missions of America as early as 1608 to 1673.

Besides numerous Bibles there are books on history, philosophy, geography, biography, theology, law, political economy and general literature in Greek, Arabic, Hebrew, Latin and French. Besides the classified documents there are parchment prints, engravings and maps. Among the relics in the library is the Bible of Mother Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity in America. It was published in 1813 and was given by her to Bishop Brute, the first Bishop of Vincennes, to whom most of the oldest and best books belonged. Other precious treasures are the "Ecce Homo" by Guido Reni, a fine miniature of the illustrious Cardinal Rohan, Prince of Leon, and an original letter written by St. Vincent de Paul on Easter, 1660.

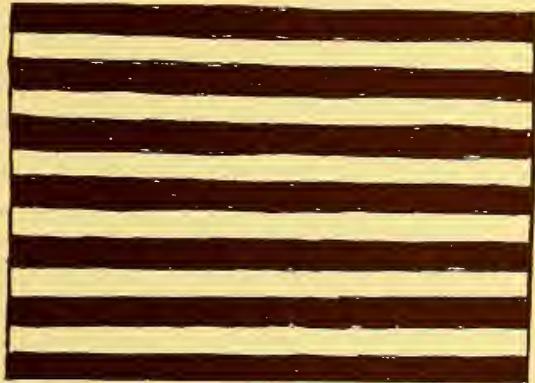
In this library are preserved the parish records, which go back in an unbroken series to June 25, 1749. Other records kept on loose sheets of paper bear the dates of 1660, 1702, 1707 signed by early missionaries.

*VINCENNES has been the home of two Presidents—Harrison and Taylor*



Oldest Book in Indiana. Printed 1476 and in the Cathedral Library.

## Stop 15



### *Site of the Home of Madame Godare, the Betsy Ross of the Northwest Territory*

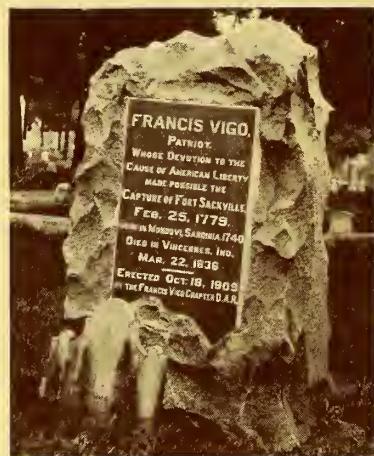
The story of Betsy Ross, who made the first American flag for General Washington, is well known to every school boy and girl. In Philadelphia her home is maintained as an historic shrine. How few know that the Old Northwest Territory had a Betsy Ross of her own in the person of Madame Godare! A member of one of the first French families to settle here, it fell her lot to make the flag with which General Clark replaced the British colors after the fall of Fort Sackville. In General Clark's financial account rendered to the state of Virginia he makes a charge for goods purchased to enable Madame Godare to make the flag.

Madame Godare's American flag was red and green, instead of red, white and blue, but it was an American flag nevertheless, and was the first emblem of American liberty to be fanned by the breezes in all the vast territory from which five great states were carved. In the Old Cathedral Library may be seen an exact facsimile of Madame Godare's flag, made by Mrs. DeLisle, one of her descendants.

All honor to the Stars and Stripes and to Betsy Ross, whose dextrous fingers first formed them; but honor, too, to Madame Godare, who likewise served her country in this lonely outpost in the wilderness!

VINCENNES was the first seat of the Diocese of Indiana

## Stop 16



### *The Grave of Col. Francis Vigo*

Francis Vigo has been called by some writers the Robert Morris of the Northwest Territory. Before the time of the Revolution he had amassed a fortune in his tradings with the Indians. These resources he promptly made available to the American forces, and but for his wise administration of the finances Clark's expedition from Kaskaskia to Vincennes would have failed.

Always patriotic and generous, he placed his newly-erected home at the disposal of Governor William Henry Harrison upon his arrival here, until the Governor's Mansion could be completed. An ungrateful country delayed returning to him the money he had advanced and he died at an advanced age in extreme poverty. Later history has given to his memory the justice denied him in life. A street in Vincennes, a township in Knox County, and a county in Indiana bear his name.

In a quiet old cemetery here in Vincennes stands a rugged granite boulder on which is the following inscription:

FRANCIS VIGO,  
PATRIOT,  
WHOSE DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE OF  
AMERICAN LIBERTY  
MADE POSSIBLE THE  
CAPTURE OF FORT SACKVILLE, FEB. 25, 1779.  
BORN MONDIO, SARDINIA, 1740  
DIED IN VINCENNES, INDIANA, MARCH 22, 1836.  
ERECTED OCTOBER 18, 1909.  
BY THE FRANCIS VIGO CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

*Largest Indian Mounds in the State of Indiana are at VINCENNES*

## Stop 17



### *The Bonner-Allen Mansion*

This fine old house, which stands near the corner of Main and Fifth streets, is one of the most perfect examples of colonial architecture to be found west of the Alleghany Mountains, the portico and panelled doorways being especially worthy of notice. It was built in 1842 by David Bonner, Esquire, a distinguished and elegant gentleman of the old school, who came to Vincennes from Frederick, Virginia. He sold the house in 1845 to Colonel Cyrus M. Allen.

Colonel Allen was a Kentuckian, a prominent lawyer and citizen, and his beautiful home became a center of gracious hospitality for many years—Abraham Lincoln having been one of his guests. The room which Lincoln occupied is now marked with a bronze plate.

In former days this house was surrounded by a beautiful garden, where the lilac and the syringia, the rose and the honeysuckle mingled their fragrance with the more practical perfumes of the raspberry, the golden gooseberry and the purple grape.

In 1915 this property was sold to Mr. George Gardner by Colonel Allen's granddaughter, Mrs. Lloyd Allen Johnson.

*Oldest Business Establishment in Indiana is in VINCENNES (Gardner's)*

## Stop 18

### *The Vincennes University*

The Ordinance of 1787, adopted for the government of the old Northwest Territory, contained this significant provision: "Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." In consequence of this policy, Congress, on March 26, 1804, set apart an entire civil township of land in the Vincennes district for the establishment and maintenance of an institution of higher learning, to be known as "The Vincennes University." In 1806 the territorial legislature of Indiana created the Board of Trustees, naming among others William Henry Harrison, who became the first president of the board.

The university began operations in 1806, being the first college in the state and the oldest in the Northwest, with the exception of the Ohio University at Athens, Ohio, which was established under similar circumstances. An interesting feature of the original charter was a provision for educating Indian youths at the expense of the university.

In due time the university became the victim of political intrigue, and its rich heritage was confiscated by the state of Indiana and diverted to other purposes. It is now a junior college with a normal training department and fills a distinct educational purpose to the surrounding community.

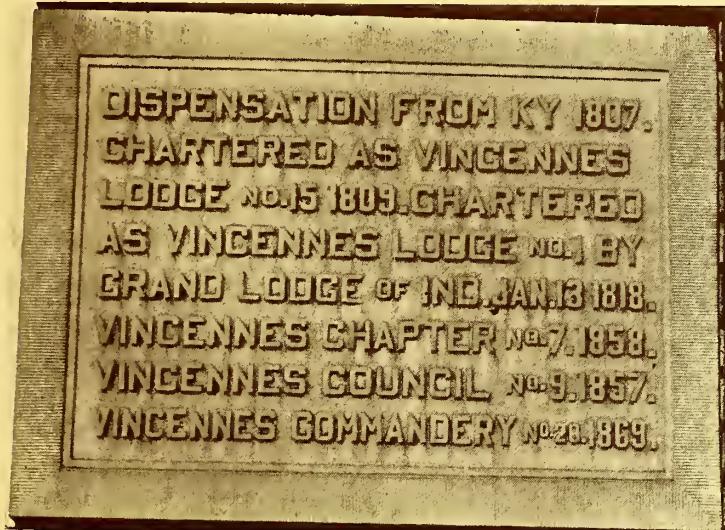
Vincennes University was a pioneer in the matter of military training. About 1894 it established a cadet corps under West Point graduates detailed by the War Department. When the Spanish-American War came, the cadet company was in a high state of efficiency. On the day following President McKinley's call

for troops the cadets volunteered as a unit. On the following day their services were accepted by Governor Mount and they immediately went into the service of the government—the first company to offer its services to the state and the only full company offered by any state educational institution in the country. The company was known as Company L, 159th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

It is also of interest to know that the Sigma Pi fraternity, a men's national collegiate organization, was founded at Vincennes University on February 26, 1897. It has chapters in some of the largest institutions of the country, including Cornell, Tulane, and the universities of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Purdue, Iowa, Wisconsin, Utah and California.

*Benjamin Parke, first U.S. District Judge in Indiana, was from VINCENNES*

## Stop 19



### *Home of Vincennes Lodge No. 1 (Masonic)*

Vincennes Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest in the state of Indiana, and the oldest established lodge of continuous existence of the Northwest Territory.

It was organized under dispensation March 13, 1809, by and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and was given a charter August 31, 1809, as Vincennes Lodge No. 15.

After Indiana was admitted as a state, the Grand Lodge of Indiana, F. and A. M., was organized at Madison, Indiana, on January 13, 1818, and Vincennes Lodge, being the oldest within the jurisdiction, was given the designation as No. 1 of Indiana.

## Stop 20



### *The Jefferson Davis Boulder*

While Vincennes was yet maintained by the government of the United States as a military post, one of the commanders here was Captain Zachary Taylor, who afterwards distinguished himself in the Mexican War and became President. Many years ago a tradition obtained currency here that Captain Taylor had a charming daughter, Miss Sarah, and that at the same time young Jefferson Davis, then a lieutenant in the army, but afterwards the president of the Southern Confederacy, was stationed in Vincennes. As the story goes, Miss Sarah captivated the young lieutenant by her charms and they frequently took rides to the country beyond the highlands. It seems that they had had a favorite trysting place at a large boulder. A certain Jeremiah Donovan knew Lieutenant Davis and Miss Taylor and frequently saw them at this point.

It is a fact that Jefferson Davis did marry a daughter of General Taylor and that the General greatly opposed the match. The local legend is given color by virtue of the fact that many years afterwards Mr. Donovan had the boulder removed to what was then the yard of his home, where it has since remained.

*VINCENNES was first town in Indiana to be incorporated*

## Stop 21



### *The Knox County Court House and Soldiers' Monument*

The Knox County Court House, built in 1873-1874 at a cost of approximately \$360,000, was intended as an appropriate monument to the pioneers and soldiers of Knox County. It is said to be the first public building erected as a soldier memorial in the country. On the front of the building arises a marble tablet twenty-one feet high, capped with a molding bearing the monogram of the United States. This slab was designed to receive the names of the citizen soldiers of the county who had fallen in battle. On the opposite side of the building is a memorial to the pioneer settlers, in the form of a fine bas-relief representation of the setting sun behind the mountains and a frightened buffalo running away at the sound of the pioneer's axe. Above this stands the figure of George Rogers Clark. It is a fine piece of sculpture by Andrew Barrot of the city of Carrara, Italy. It is carved from one solid block of stone and weighs nearly four tons.

On a niche opposite the Clark statue is the figure of a Civil War soldier, standing at parade rest. On the Busselon Street side of the building, above the entrance, stands the figure of Justice. It is said that this piece of work was modeled after Donati de Bardi's famous piece in the Vatican collection at Rome. All the statues are more than nine feet in height.

On the northwest corner of the Court House Square stands a soldiers' monument erected in 1914 at a cost of \$50,000.

*First Medical Society in Indiana was at VINCENNES*

## Stop 22



### *The Mounds*

Visitors to Vincennes can well afford to take the time necessary to visit the prehistoric mounds situated near the corporate limits of the city. These are four in number and are the largest in the state. They are grouped in a semi-circle to the east and south of the city. One will be found at the intersection of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad with State Highways Nos. 5 and 10. The most picturesque is known as Sugar Loaf Mound, here pictured. It is on the Monroe City Road. The view of the city from its summit is very beautiful and well worth the climb to the top.

The largest mound is Pyramid, about a mile south of the city. It is of the conical type and is beautifully symmetrical. Several years ago Messrs. Jay Smith and Edward L. Townsley, of Vincennes, made extensive excavations in this mound. Several feet below the surface, before a bed of charcoal, were found the remains of a human skeleton. In the right hand was found a highly polished mussel shell and before it rested an excellent specimen of ancient pottery. This bowl was apparently made out of ground shells and clay, baked together. The skeleton is believed to have been the remains of a medicine man. On the east side of the mound another skeleton was found. Near the right hand were found eight arrow heads of the most perfect type. About the neck had been worn a necklace of the prongs of buck antlers. At the side of the head was found a stone tomahawk.

This entire collection of historic relics was donated to the Daughters of the American Revolution and is now on exhibition in the Harrison House.

*First Women's Club in Indiana to own its home was at VINCENNES*

## Stop 23



### *St. Rose Academy*

St. Rose Academy stands upon historic ground. No building in Vincennes ever witnessed so many vicissitudes as the old St. Rose. The first Vincennes University, built in 1807, it became successively the territorial legislative hall, a college for young men, a seminary for students of the priesthood, an orphanage home, first for boys, then for girls, and finally St. Rose Academy.

It was upon this site the first university building stood. It was a frame structure forty by sixty feet, a story and a half high. Among the distinguished men who served on the Board of Trustees were General William Henry Harrison, Luke Decker, Nathaniel Ewing, Benjamin Parke, Henry Vanderburg and Francis Vigo. It was a grammar school and was supported by tuition and from funds received from lottery tickets, which were sold in neighboring states. It is supposed that the brick building illustrated above was erected in 1811, and it is said to have been the second brick building erected in Vincennes—the first being the Harrison House, built in 1804. The Territorial Legislature met in the halls of this building in 1811. It was used as a hospital in 1812, and again in 1861 it sheltered the soldiers of the Nineteenth Illinois Regiment. The university was the subject of much legislation. It finally became involved in a debt of \$1,800 and the building was sold on October 24, 1839, to Bishop de la Hailandiere for \$6,500. It then became St. Gabriel's College for young men and a seminary for students of the priesthood.

In 1844 it was used by the orphan boys of the diocese, and afterwards by the orphan girls. In 1875 the orphanage became a school for girls under the name of St. Rose Academy. It has always held a high place among the schools of the city. The old St. Rose was demolished in 1884 and the present building erected immediately thereafter.

## Stop 24



### Fort Knox

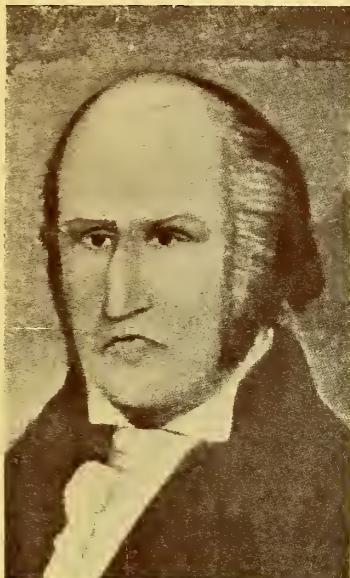
Fort Knox, established in 1788, was situated on a wooded knoll overlooking a bend in the Wabash River, three miles above Vincennes. In 1803 the government received a deed for approximately eighty-three acres of land for the purpose of maintaining a post or garrison. The land was purchased from Toussaint DuBois, for whom DuBois County, Indiana, was named. The fort was discontinued about 1815 or 1816, when the government property and stores were removed to Fort Harrison, near Terre Haute.

The site of Fort Knox seems to have been a favorite with the Indians, even before the advent of the white man. Evidences that it was used by them as a burial ground may yet be seen. Many relics of the early days have been found by the farmers who till the soil near the old fort grounds. Arrowheads and axes, grapeshot of different sizes, hand-made hinges and nails, and lead buttons, showing that they belonged to United States soldiers of the First Regiment, have been found. Many of these relics have been preserved and are now on display at the Harrison House in Vincennes. There is a tradition that while the Federal troops were stationed at Fort Knox great quantities of gold and silver coin were buried somewhere in the wilds that surrounded it, and that many years afterwards strangers came and recovered the hidden wealth and departed as mysteriously as they came.

In the *Western Sun* of June 15, 1811, appears this reference to an unfortunate incident in connection with the garrison of the post:

"We have the disagreeable task to inform our readers of an unfortunate affair which took place Monday last at the garrison of Fort Knox. Captain Thornton Posey shot Lieutenant Jesse Jennings dead on the spot."

*VINCENNES reviewed in Fiction of many Authors*



### *George Rogers Clark*

General Clark was born in Virginia, only a mile and a half from the home of Thomas Jefferson. During the darkest days of the Revolution he conceived the idea of striking boldly at the British possessions in the Mississippi Valley. Encouraged by Jefferson and commissioned by Patrick Henry, then the governor of the state, he mustered an army of barely 175 militiamen and set forth. His first objective was Kaskaskia, near the site of the present city of East St. Louis. Having taken it, he proceeded to Vincennes and captured it on February 25, 1779, thereby obtaining for the American colonies an unquestionable claim upon the great Mississippi Valley. He died in want on February 13, 1818, and is buried at Louisville, Kentucky.



### *Father Gibault*

Pierre Gibault, born in Canada in 1737, justly deserves the title of "The Patriot Priest of the Northwest." It was his influence that won the French inhabitants of Old Vincennes over to the cause of American liberty, even before Clark's campaign reached the Old Post. He was a priest, a patriot and a diplomat. He died at New Madrid, Mo., in 1804. His remains were removed to Canada, where they rest in an unmarked grave.

*Flags of three greatest World Powers have flown over VINCENNES*

## *William Henry Harrison*

William Henry Harrison was a Virginian. As the governor of the Indiana Territory it became his task to make the country safe from the attacks of savage Indians and to establish a form of civil government. He is best known for his campaigns against the Indian Chief Tecumseh, whose forces he conquered at the Battle of Tippecanoe. The fame which he gained from these encounters made him President of the United States in 1841. He served only a short time, however, until he died. His tomb is at North Bend, Ohio. He was the Grandfather of President Benjamin Harrison.



## *Francis Vigo*

Francis Vigo has been called the Robert Morris of the Northwest. His wise administration of the finances of Clark's campaign from Kaskaskia to Vincennes made possible the capture of Vincennes. A Sardinian by birth, he accumulated a considerable fortune from trading with the Indians, but died a victim of abject poverty. The expense of his burial was not paid until forty years after his death, at which late hour the United States government made a settlement with his heirs for the financial aid given George Rogers Clark during the Revolution. Born 1740; died 1836



*VINCENNES, capture of which in 1779, important Revolutionary event*



PRICE 35c

25c

To find which is the little evil—  
He loves, which way to the Pope or the D—  
Will stay any longer here, where if  
They live, only just won more year sur-

They live, which way to the Pope or the D—  
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They live, only just won more year sur-

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of the sexes. The great mass of men neglect all these, the pennys and aithings they seem to consider unnecessary to the pound. They would gather into possessiun the moon, and neglect the avions out of which it is made. They set out, unfortunately, with some brilliant and inviting illusion before them, and when it vanishes upon their approach, they arrive only at the conclusion, that all is vanity and vexation of spirit, and that the object of search, is no where to be found—when as is most general y the case, our ill fortune is mostly, if not entirely attributable to their own idle, misdirected and extravagant concepions.

**The Number Seven**—Seven is composed of the two first perfect numbers, equal and unequal—three and four; for the number consisting of repeated unity, which is the septenary number, by its occult number, is not perfect. Hippocrates says that the septenary number, by its occult virtues, tends to the accomplishment of all things, is the dispenser of life and fountain of all its changes; and like Shakespeare, he divides the life of man into seven ages. In seven months a child may be born and live, and anciently it was not named before seven days—not being accounted fully to have life before that periodical day—the teeth sprouting out in the 7th month, when infancy is changed into childhood—at twice 7 years puberty begins; at thrice 7 years the faculties are developed,—manhood commences, and we become legally competent to all civil acts—at "March to the battle field." The French gentleman was in extacies. "Save that is a singer. He appears like Napoleon before the imperial guard" "What is his name?" It is "Mr. Jones," "Monsieur Chone"—he replied with extreme surprise, "by gar! he is great man—he paint, he sing, I write down his name again," Not long afterwards Mr. Jones No. 3, appeared on the tennis as *Gombol*. The guest with which he fed and licked his lips attracted his attention. "There is one *l'and ac* teur. What is he?" "That is Mr. Jones" Sabbath of rest for all things; and at the end of 7 times 7 years commenced the grand jubilee. Every 7th year there was a general release from all debts, and all bondmen were set free. Every seven years of the law was directed to the people—and by 10. 10, man was commanded to forgive his brother 7 times; but the meekness of the last received religion extended his brotherly and forbearance in 70 times 7. 70 times 7. The Robinsons in general, were held back in their eyes and hearts, that his eyes and heart shall be revenged 7 times, truly lame. Cited a white handkerchief with all the grace 70 times 7. The Robinsons say, that God em

made customers.

Vincennes, Dec 1, 1829. 43 21  
R. P. PRICE.

LAND FOR SALE.  
October 3, 1829. 55-6m



**Hats Made & Sold, by  
(VINCENNES, INDIANA.)**

James & McFarlane, as an Iron store, on Second street, one door above Market street.

The pieces of hats in general, are for

**Beaver, 8 10 Fine Rorane, 8 15  
Fur Castor, 8 16 Coarse do, 3**

Hats made in the shops here, are in general much superior to those imported from the Eastern states, for the latter are made of the coarsest wool, and naped with rabbit fur—the farmers would find it to their interest, at least 25 per cent, to purchase from the manufacturers—I pledge myself that my Hats shall be made in the best manner, of superior stuff, and in the most fashionable style.

**RICHARD P. PRICE.**

February, 1829.

**PORK, CORN & OATS, will be received in exchange for Hats.** R. P. P.

2-16

2-16

**MACHINE CARDS,**

WOOL CARDING AND MACHINES.

**No. 37, MAIN STREET, CINCINNATI.**

**Keeps constantly on hand, an assortment of  
MACHINE CARDS.**

Of almost every description, either for  
Cotton or Wool Carding, warranted of the  
best quality.

**ALSO,** WOOL CARDING MACHINE,

Built on the most approved plans, and of  
the best workmanship.

Likewise, a variety of other articles required  
in the Carding and Cloth Dressing Busi-

ness, viz: Machine Castings; Fullers' Press  
Scew; Press Plates; Fuller's Stoves, with  
Plates; Dye Kettles; Jack Cards; Comb  
Plates; Cleaning Combs; Card Players; &c.

Also—A general assortment of  
BYE

**WUFFS.** All of which are offered at re-

duced prices.

All orders for any of the above articles,  
will be promptly attended to, and the goods  
delivered, when required, to any place situ-

**REMOVAL.**  
STATE OF INDIANA, 3.  
Knox County.

**I** WOULD inform my friends and customers, and the public in general, that having sustained a great loss by fire, which consumed my old tavern stand, I have removed to the frame building, a part of which was lately occupied as a Saddler's shop, nearly opposite the Stand in which I formerly kept tavern; where, I am in hopes, I shall be able to accommodate any and all persons in the best manner possible.

BAZIL BROWN.

Princeton, Fe: 11, 1830.

2-4c

**STATE OF INDIANA, 3.**

**BEFORE me, Martin Robinson, one of the  
Justices of the Peace, in and for the  
county aforesaid, personally came George W.**

**Ewing, who being duly sworn according to  
law, deposes and saith that Christian Grae-**

**ter of Knox county, saith he threatened to kill  
this deponent, and that he verily believes the**

**said Christian Graeter will do some bodily  
injury to this deponent, and therefore pray-**

**the peace to be given by said Christian Graeter. Signed,**

**GEO. W. EWING.**

**Sworn to and subscribed before me the 17th  
of February, 1830.**

**MARIN ROBINSON, J. P.**

**The above is a true copy of the original  
deposition, filed in my office.**

**M. R. J. P.**

**J. MURPHY.**

**WANTED,**  
JOURNEYMAN Tanner, to whom  
liberal wages and steady employment  
will be given, provided he be an industrious  
and steady man.

**JOHN MURPHY.**

**Cincinnati Jan. 1830.**

**50-94c**

PRICE 35c

25c

# WESTERN SUN & GENERAL ADVERTISER.

BY ELIHU STOUT.]

VINCENNES, (IND.) SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1830

[Vol. XXI. No. 4

## THE WESTERN SUN

16 published at \$2 50 cents, for \$2 numbers, which may be discharged by payment of \$2 at the time of subscribing.

Payments for papers, and general business of both parties that mode is solicited.

A failure to notify a wish to discontinue at the expiration of the time subscribed for, will be considered a new engagement; & no subscriber at liberty to discontinue, until all arrears are paid—Subscribers must pay the postage on their papers when sent by mail.

Letters by mail to the Editor on business must be paid, or they will not be attended to.

Payments to be received at the Cashier's Office, for subscriptions, if delivered within the year.

ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding thirteen lines, will be inserted three times for one dollar, and twenty-five cents for each after insertion—longer ones in the same proportion.

Persons sending Advertisements, must specify the number of copies with them inserted, or they will be computed with regard to all such to purchasers as before.

and out, and must be paid accordingly.

## LAW OF INDIANS

AN ACT providing means to carry into effect the laws of the Wabash and Erie canals.

[APPROVED, JANUARY 26, 1830.]

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Assembly of the state of Indiana, that the board of commissioners of the Wabash and Erie canal, shall continue to three years, from the day of the first meeting of the present assembly, to have its executive offices three years, subject by joint resolution of the state assembly of Representatives; and any vacant board happening in recess, shall be appointed by the governor, at the next ensuing session of the assembly, which it shall be the duty of such commissioners, after discharge of his duties, take an account of the canal, and fully to execute the same with a penal bond, of like amount, and duration as required.

An act concerning the Wabash and Erie canal, approved, January 10, 1829, in the office of the state auditor, and which, and shall be rendered and certified when required, or of any, or a majority of them, he is a member, a failure to forfeit the said office.

Sec 2. That the said commissioners shall have the exclusive of the land securing an act of congress of May 22, 1825, and of May 22, 1830; and a majority of them, a quorum for the transaction, they shall meet and adjourn from time to time, at any time and place they may employ such aid as may be necessary to discharge the said office.

Sec 3. That the various districts of the state, for the same, but the execution thereof shall distinctly devolve upon the members, respectively assigned to each district, by the board, to wit: A commissioner of the canal fund, to be designated, who shall receive, pay over and account for all moneys to be controlled by the board, for the canal purpose; under regulations and restrictions, in the board, and to be paid out of the same, for the application of the money, and in a correct manner by available entries of receipts and expenditures, of accounting for all sums so received, in conformity with the forms of obligations, and certificates hereinbefore provided to be furnished by the auditor of state. A commissioner of contracts, who shall make a sale of the lands, as hereinbefore provided, keeping a record of the same, and shall be responsible for contracts entered into by him with the board; and a commissioner of accounts, who shall record all the proceedings, preserve the vouchers, and documents, and conduct the correspondence of the board: Provided, that the duties of these designated commissioners, may be temporarily transferred to each other by the board, and a quarterly report of their proceedings, and accounts, to be made to the board, by them to the auditor of public accounts, and an annual report of all their proceedings, contracts and accounts, to the general assembly, by the second Monday in December.

Sec 4. That the said board is hereby authorized and directed, to finally adjust with the general government, the selection of the lands accruing to the state by the act of congress, above named, and to subscribe the same to the state of Indiana, through the use of the state of Indiana, by quarter sections and fractions. They shall proclaim a sale thereof, in half quarter sections by three months notice in the State Gazette, and Indiana Journal newspaper, in this state, in the National Intelligencer, United States' Telegraph, in one paper in the cities of Boston, Albany, New York, Rochester, and Buffalo; Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh, Pa. and Richmond, Virginia, and in one of each of the states of Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, North and South Carolina, and to four papers in Ohio, two Kentucky, and

two in Tennessee, which sale shall take place on the first Monday in October, in each place, on or near the line of the canal, as they may select. In all cases, when the commissioners superintending the sale, become satisfied of the existence of a combination between purchasers, to cause any tract to sell for a less price than would otherwise be obtained, authority is hereby given to sell such tract to the highest bidder, at the same time, of the price and value of all such tracts on advertising the next ensuing session of the legislature, and to the same, which are particularly worthy of public attention, and for all such to purchasers as before.

Sec 5. That the said board, shall select and report, at an early time, a suitable place for the same, and at appropriate times, to be held, for the sale of the lands.

Sec 6. That the commissioners, shall

of the tracts sold, purchaser's name, principal and interest paid, districlity, and shall each, in writing, date after each sale, transmit to the auditor of public accounts, an abstract of the entries in their books, specifying as above, and an aggregate amount of the canal fund, which shall be entered by the auditor in proper books, by him to be accounted. And the treasurer and auditor, shall each transmit to the general assembly annually, within the time limited, a detailed report from their respective offices, expenditures, and other matters of public account, to aid him in his audit.

Sec 7. That the said board, shall

gentleman went in pursuit of the murderers immediately after the occurrence, took place, but were unable to overtake them. They suppose from the trail, that the party consisted of from 8 to 10. Mr. Murphy had resided in the county but a short time, was a peaceable laid withing man, and had never been in any difficulty with the Indians or any other Indian during his residence there. He left his wife, when on learning the report of the guns, hurried to the field, and was the first to discover the lifeless corpse of her husband, who had been scalped by the savage murderers. —[Gazette.]

New York, January 20, 1830.

Sir, Having enquired Wheel and Rail, the principal manufacturers of iron, and the principal dealers in iron, in New York, I have made out a model of a gun carriage to please you. In the present state of the country, it is my intention to have it made, and to have it in my possession, as soon as possible.

It is my present purpose to have it made, and to have it in my possession, as soon as possible.

It is my present purpose to have it made, and to have it in my possession, as soon as possible.

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It is my present purpose to have

Important  
Dates In Life  
Of Lincoln

1809

Feb. 12, Abraham Lincoln born.  
May 4, Termination of Illinois organized.  
Mar. 4, James Madison inaugurated President.

1810

Feb. 12, first birthday; still living in log cabin where born. June 1, population of United States 7,239,822, of which 1,191,363 are slaves.

1811

Feb. 12, second birthday, still living where born.

1812

Feb. 12, third birthday. Still living where born. June 18, Congress declares war against England. No. 1, Daniel Webster, aged 30, enters public life.

1813

Feb. 12, Lincoln's fourth birthday. Moved this year to Knob Creek, 15 miles away, where saw a soldier of the War 1812, the first soldier he laid eyes on. April 23, Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's great rival, born at Bremen, Vt.

1814

Feb. 12, Lincoln begins first schooling. Dec. 9, birth of Stanton, Lincoln's great Secretary of War.

1815

Jan. 8, Jackson wins battle of New Orleans. Feb. 12, Lincoln's sixth birthday. In this year he was almost drowned in Knob creek.

1816

Feb. 12, Lincoln's seventh birthday. During this year the family moved to Gentryville, Ind. They crossed the Ohio in the forest.

August 2, first steamship arrives at St. Louis.

1818

Feb. 12, eighth birthday. Lincoln begins using axe in the forest.

August 2, first steamship arrives at St. Louis.

1819

Feb. 12, tenth birthday. Living with father and sister, Sarah, in Indiana wilderness. May 26, first steamship crosses the Atlantic. December 2, Lincoln's father marries Mrs. Sarah Bush Johnson.

1820

Feb. 12, eleventh birthday. Walks four miles to school daily. June 1, first steamship line between New York and New Orleans.

1821

Feb. 12, twelfth birthday. Stepmother deeply interested in him, and arouses his eagerness for learning.

1822

Feb. 1, first cotton mill erected in Massachusetts. Feb. 12, Lincoln's thirteenth birthday. Works on a farm. Does figuring on a wooden shovel and smooth bark. April 27, U. S. Grant born.

1823

Feb. 12, fourteenth birthday. Attends Andrew Crawford's school and writes first essay in cruelty to animals. June 1, first steam power printing press in New York. Dec. 2, Monroe Doctrine pronounced.

1824

Feb. 12, fifteenth birthday. Eagerly borrows all the books for miles around. Aug. 10, Robert Owen of Scotland, establishes a community settlement in Indiana.

1825

Feb. 12, sixteenth birthday. Works as wood chopper and earns six dollars per month. Oct. 26, Erie Canal completed.

1826

Feb. 12, seventeenth birthday. Gets hands on first law hook. June 4, fiftieth anniversary of American Independence.

1827

Feb. 12, eighteenth birthday. His sister died in July of this year.

1828

Feb. 12, nineteenth birthday. Now six feet, four in height. Makes first trip down Mississippi this year at eight dollars per month.

1829

Feb. 12, twentieth birthday. Works as a wood chopper and (Continued on Next Page)

# EMINENT CITIZENS WILL BE GUESTS OF CITY



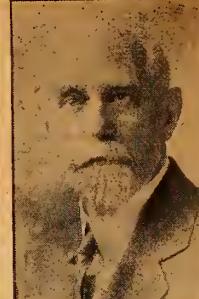
FLEM D. SAMPSON,  
Governor of Kentucky.



HARRY G. LESLIE,  
Governor of Indiana.



LOUIS L. EMMERSON,  
Governor of Illinois.



DR. WILLIAM E. BARTON,  
Eminent Lincoln Biographer.

## PROGRAM OF THE DAY

### 10:30 A. M., Business Meeting

Permanent organization of the Lincoln National Memorial Highway Association for Indiana, followed immediately by a meeting of the official representatives of similar organizations in Illinois, Kentucky and Indiana. Ways and means will be discussed and plans made for promoting the early construction of this great memorial highway to connect the Birthplace of Lincoln in Kentucky, his early Home and Mother's Grave in Indiana, and his tomb in Illinois. Council Chamber, City Hall, Fourth and Main Streets.

### 12:00 (noon) — Group Luncheons

Arrangements have been made for a number of group luncheons for the accommodation of visitors and anticipated guests. These will be served at the hotels and downtown churches. An able speaker will be provided for each place. Tickets should be reserved in advance. Communicate with the Secretary of the Committee, Miss Aline Robinson, Care Chamber of Commerce, Vincennes, Indiana. Tickets for luncheon 75¢ each.

### 1:30 P. M., Pageant-Parade

#### "LINCOLN LIVES AGAIN"

This feature of the program is made possible through the hearty cooperation of a large number of communities along the route of the proposed Lincoln Memorial Highway. The purpose has been to depict the incidents in the life of the Great Emancipator. Nothing of the spectacular will be attempted. Each incident in the parade will be simple, dignified and lifelike. There will be no band music while the parade is moving, but the church bells of the city will toll throughout the enactment of this part of the program. There will be no motor vehicles in the procession, all floats, except the first, will be horse-drawn.

Among the incidents to be portrayed will be the following:

The Lincoln Migration to Illinois in 1830; Lincoln's Birthplace; Lincoln's first Indiana Home; Lincoln Studying by the Firelight; Lincoln Splitting Rails; Lincoln at New Orleans; Lincoln Viewing a Printing Press for the First Time; Lincoln and Ann Rutledge; Lincoln the Lawyer; Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Lincoln's First Inaugural; Lincoln Visiting a Military Hospital; The Lincoln Family Group; Lincoln Signing the Emancipation Proclamation; Columbia Mourns.

At the conclusion of the parade the Presidential Salute of twenty-one guns will be fired, after which the First Regiment Band of Vincennes will lead the line of march directly to the Coliseum, Seventh and Buntin Streets, playing the old familiar song, "Oh, Suzanna."

### Afternoon Meeting

This meeting will be held at the Vincennes Coliseum immediately after the pageant-parade. There will be seats available for 7,000 people. There will be no charge for admission.

Among the speakers for this occasion will be:

HON. FLEM D. SAMPSON, GOVERNOR OF KENTUCKY.  
HON. LOUIS L. EMMERSON, GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS.

HON. HARRY G. LESLIE, GOVERNOR OF INDIANA.

Music for the afternoon meeting will be furnished by the Vincennes Choral Society, consisting of 200 trained voices, under the direction of Professor Frank H. Banned of the Vincennes University School of Music. The Society will render the well known cantata, "Abraham Lincoln," text by Edward Stockton Briss, music by Richard Mountz. The cantata is divided into the following parts:

- Part I. The Forest.
- Part II. The Soutr
- Part III. The North.
- Part IV. Conflict.
- Part V. Thanksgiving (Instrumental).
- Part VI. Rest.
- Part VII. Pean.

The instrumental music will be furnished by Kinbly's Orchestra. The Coliseum is also equipped with a pipe organ, at which Professor John S. Clark will preside.

### Sightseeing.

At the conclusion of the afternoon meeting, cars will be furnished by the Vincennes Rotary and Kiwanis clubs for those who may wish to visit the places of historic interest in Vincennes. It is suggested that these include the William Henry Harrison Home, the Indiana Territorial Capitol Building, the Old Cathedral and Library, and the site of the George Rogers Clark Memorial.

The Fortnightly Woman Club will hold open house for all visitors from 3:00 to 6:00 o'clock at their new club building, corner Sixth and Seminary streets.

### 8:30 P. M., Banquet

The celebration will be concluded with a Lincoln Migration Centennial Banquet, to be held at the Gibault Auditorium, corner of Second and Barnett streets.

Among the speakers for this occasion will be Dr. William E. Barton, the eminent Lincoln biographer, Dr. John Wesley Hill, Chancellor of Lincoln Memorial University, and Dr. Louis A. Warren, director of the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

There will be accommodations for only 500 persons at this banquet. It is therefore imperative that reservations be made in advance by those who wish to attend. Tickets may be procured from Miss Aline Robinson, care Chamber of Commerce, Vincennes, Indiana. Price \$1.50 each.

### Decorations, Etc.

The committee desires to avail itself of this opportunity to express its appreciation to the merchants and other business establishments of Vincennes, whose liberal support has made it possible to decorate the downtown section of the city in a manner befitting the importance of the occasion.

In addition, many of the stores have added materially to the historic value of the celebration by providing interesting window displays of Lincolmania and other relics. Many of these objects have been generously loaned by the citizens of Vincennes and the surrounding counties.



DR. JOHN WESLEY HILL,  
Chancellor Lincoln Memorial  
University.



DR. LOUIS A. WARREN,  
Director Lincoln Historical  
Research Foundation.

## Three Governors To Be Guests

An official aspect is lent to the celebration of the Lincoln Migration Centennial at Vincennes March 6, by the fact that three governors will attend the program.

Cov. Harry Leslie of Indiana has personally invited Gov. Flem Sampson of Kentucky, and Gov. Louis E. Emerson of Illinois to Vincennes on that day. He has been assured of their acceptance.

Vincennes as a Coliseum seating 6,000, and a modern theater, seating 1,100. The Clark-Gibault auditorium seats about 2,000.

Vincennes has unexcelled mail facilities. Any deposited in the post office before noon will reach any destination 800 miles away for morning delivery.

Vincennes has many nearby lakes and streams that afford excellent fishing and boating.

1830-1930

## Lincoln Migration Centennial

1830-1930

Vincennes, Indiana, March 6, 1930

## Parade Will Depict Life Of Lincoln

Cities, Communities Along "Barefoot Trail" to Send Floats.

The thousands of visitors expected to come to Vincennes March 6 for the Lincoln Migration Centennial will see one of the most elaborate parades of its kind ever seen in the country.

Cities and communities along the route which Lincoln took from Indiana to Illinois are working with the Vincennes Chamber of Commerce in staging the parade.

There will be no automobiles in the parade. Instead all vehicles and floats will be either horse drawn or oxen drawn.

## To Depict Life of Lincoln.

The parade will attempt to depict in realistic manner the outstanding incidents in the life of Lincoln. Nothing of the spectacular will be attempted. Each incident in the life will be simple, dignified and lifelike. There will be no band music, but the church bells will toll.

One of the features of the parade will be a genuine prairie schooner of the same type which Lincoln's family used in their migration.

There will be a float showing the log cabin birthplace. Lincoln will be pictured in his first Indiana home, studying by the fire light; splitting rails.

There will be a float on his trip to New Orleans, where he took his famous stand against slavery.

And then, his viewing of the printing press in the office of The Western Sun. It was the first time Lincoln had seen a newspaper plant. He talked with the editor of the Sun, Elihu Stolt. A hand press of the same type that Lincoln saw will be used in this float and young Lincoln will be shown standing by it with an old time editor reading a proof.

## Parade in Afternoon.

Another float will depict the love affair of Lincoln and Ann Rutledge another showing him as the lawyer; another the Lincoln-Douglas debate; his first inaugural; his visit to a military hospital during the civil war; Lincoln and his family when he was president; his signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and lastly "Columbia Mourns."

This parade will be held at 1:30 in the afternoon. Immediately

To Appropriately Observe the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Migration of Abraham Lincoln from the State of Indiana to the State of Illinois in March, 1830

To be Held at

VINCENNES, INDIANA

Thursday, March 6th, 1930

## The Official Invitation

The Citizens of Vincennes Cordially Invite You to Attend

## THE LINCOLN MIGRATION CENTENNIAL

## Delegates of Three States Coming Here

Official Meeting of Memorial Highway Association March 6.

Delegations from a score or more of cities and towns along the route which Abraham Lincoln and his family followed in their trek from Hodgenville, to Spencer county and from Spencer county over into Illinois, will come to Vincennes, March 6 to attend the official meeting of the Lincoln National Memorial Highway Association of the three states of Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky.

Official delegations from the three states will hold a business session at 10:30 in the morning of that day. This will formally open the all day celebration of Lincoln's visit to Vincennes.

## Association Perfected.

Illinois has already perfected its highway association and the route by the highway in that state has practically been determined.

In Indiana, a movement toward organizing a similar society has been under way for some time and is expected to culminate in a formal organization on March 13. Kentucky is expected to do the same. Then all three societies will organize themselves into a tri-state body to work for government aid in building the highway leading from Lincoln's birthplace to Indiana where he grew to manhood and thence to Illinois where he later ascended to the national attention that resulted in his nomination and election to the presidency.

## "Barefoot Trail."

Many towns in Indiana are expected to contest for the honor of having the highway go through their town. Chambers of commerce will send delegations to tell why.

Sponsors of the highway propose that it be called the Barefoot trail, to picture thus the poverty from which Lincoln arose. There is a movement on foot also to call the highway the Rail Splitter highway. It is planned to make the highway one of the most famous boulevards of the country, a broad pavement, probably specially lighted and with markers along the route telling of such and such a Lincoln event occurred here and there.

## A Letter From the Mayor of Vincennes

City of Vincennes  
Executive Department

The muse of history has been exceedingly kind to old Vincennes. It is among the most historic cities in the country. The pioneer French explorers, traders and priests found the site populated with an Indian village when they first arrived. Even before that it had been a favorite place of habitation with that mysterious race, the Mound Builders.

It was here that George Rogers Clark won everlasting fame for himself and the old Northwest for the United States. Here William Henry Harrison served as Governor of Indiana territory and held conferences with Tecumseh.

Here Zachary Taylor served his country as an officer in the regular army.

Vincennes is pardonably proud of her part and place in these historic incidents and achievements, but she is none the less proud of her associations with the immortal

after, a program will follow at the Coliseum, which seats 7,000 people. Here the governors of the three states, Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois will talk. There will be a Lincoln cantata.

Following this there will be a tour of the city.

Then in the evening, there will be the Lincoln Migration Centennial banquet to be served at the Gibson auditorium. Arrangements are being made to seat 500 at this banquet.

Dr. William E. Barton, famous Lincoln biographer; Dr. John Wesley Hill, chancellor of Lincoln Memorial University and Dr. Louis A. Warren, director of the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation, will be speakers.

Vincennes (highway route) is 261 miles south of Chicago via Lawrenceville, Ill., and 279 miles by way of Terre Haute, Ind.

Vincennes (highway route) is 130 miles south of Indianapolis, 150 miles east of St. Louis, and 212 miles west of Cincinnati.

Lincoln. Here he gazed with prophetic interest on a printing press, as he viewed it for the first time, and here Indiana, which had nurtured him from childhood to manhood, gave him into the keeping of the great state of Illinois.

As Mayor of Vincennes, I am therefore most happy to add this word of official welcome to those who may find it possible to join with us on March sixth, in fitting

ly observing this one hundredth anniversary of the Lincoln migration. The city will do everything within its power to make your visit one long to be remembered.

J. W. Kinnell

Mayor of Vincennes.

## The Committee

CURTIS G. SHAKE, Chairman

MISS ALINE ROBINSON, Secretary

MRS. VIRGIL L. EIKENBERRY, Treasurer

MRS. FRANK WEILER

B. F. NESBITT

WILLIAM H. HILL

EWING R. EMISON

EDGAR N. HASKINS

G. F. OSTERHAGE

## Office:

Care Chamber of Commerce,  
Grand Hotel Bldg.,  
Vincennes, Ind.

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Vincennes (highway route) is 130 miles south of Indianapolis, 150 miles east of St. Louis, and 212 miles west of Cincinnati.

Vincennes (highway route) is 130 miles north of Louisville, Ky., via Mitchell, Ind., and 118 miles via West Baden. The short route between Vincennes and West Baden and French Lick is 62 miles.

Vincennes has one private air port and the United States government is equipping another and will soon make Vincennes an air mail station.

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## IMPORTANT DATES IN THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

(Continued From Page 2)  
wins notice as backwoods orator. June 30, Robert E. Lee graduates from West Point.

## 1830

Feb. 12, twenty-first birthday. Family preparing to leave Indiana for Illinois.

## 1831

Feb. 12, twenty-second birthday. Helps build new home in Illinois. Works on flat boat, and clerks in store at New Salem.

## 1832

Feb. 12, twenty-third birthday. During this year Lincoln serves in Black Hawk war and reads Blackstone.

## 1833

Feb. 12, Lincoln's twenty-fourth birthday. He is burdened with debt. Learns surveying. May 7, appointed postmaster of New Salem, Ill.

## 1834

Feb. 12, twenty-fifth birthday. In November was elected to the Legislature. Meets Stephen A. Douglas.

## 1835

Feb. 12, twenty-sixth birthday. During the year favors woman suffrage and takes against slavery.

## 1836

Feb. 12, twenty-seventh birthday.

day. April, begins practicing law in Springfield, Illinois. November, re-elected to Legislature.

## 1837

Feb. 12, twenty-eighth birthday. New Salem year. Protests against pro-slavery action of Legislature.

## 1838

Feb. 12, twenty-ninth birthday. This year forms law partnership with John T. Stuart, at Springfield. November, re-elected to Legislature.

## 1839

Feb. 12, thirtieth birthday. This year argues against slavery in Legislature. Sept. 1, U. S. Grant enters West Point.

## 1840

Feb. 12, thirty-first birthday. Re-elected to Legislature this year.

## 1841

Feb. 12, thirty-second birthday. Awakens interest in temperance.

## 1842

Feb. 12, thirty-third birthday. Feb. 22, favors total abstinence in address before Washington Temperance society at Springfield, Ill.

## 1843

Feb. 12, thirty-fourth birthday. Meets Stephen A. Douglas.

## 1844

Feb. 12, thirty-fifth birthday. Meets Stephen A. Douglas.

from West Point. Aug. 1, Robert Todd Lincoln born.

## 1844

Feb. 12, forty-first birthday. February, Lincoln's father died at age of seventy-three.

## 1852

Feb. 12, forty-third birthday. June 29, death of Henry Clay, aged seventy-five. Oct. 24, death of Daniel Webster, aged seventy.

## 1845

Feb. 12, forty-fourth birthday. April 2, Thomas Lincoln born.

## 1854

Feb. 12, forty-fifth birthday. October, Lincoln challenges Douglass to joint debate.

## 1855

Feb. 12, forty-sixth birthday. During this year the anti-slavery becomes generally known as the Republican party.

## 1856

Feb. 12, forty-seventh birthday. May 29 delivers an address at organization of Republican party, Bloomington.

## 1857

Feb. 12, forty-eighth birthday. March 12, Buchanan inaugurated President.

## 1848

Feb. 12, forty-ninth birthday. June 16, makes opening speech as candidate for partnership in Chicago law firm. Dec. 21, William W. H. Seward.

## 1859

Jan. 9, first shot of Civil war fired. Feb. 4, confederate congress organized. Feb. 12, fifty-second birthday. Feb. 18, Jefferson Davis inaugurated president of the confederate states of America.

## 1860

March 4, Lincoln inaugurated President. April 15, Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers. July 21, Battle of Bull Run. July 22,

## 1861

Dec. 20, South Carolina secedes.

## 1862

Jan. 1, first battle of Bull Run.

(Continued on Page 2)

**Lincoln First Saw Printing  
Press in Vincennes the Day  
Family Migrated to Illinois**

# LINCOLN AND

## City Abounds With History On Lincoln

By CURTIS G. SHAKE  
Vincennes attorney and historian.

Vincennes is rich in Lincoln associations. During the period that he resided in Indiana it was the principal city in the state and already had behind it a century of history and achievement.

When Thomas Lincoln, the father of the President, removed from Kentucky to Indiana in 1816 he walked from Spencer county to Vincennes and entered his farm at the United States land office. Thomas Lincoln's dealings with respect to the purchase of his Indiana farm were had with John Badollet, (1) the registrar of the Vincennes land office. Badollet was holding this position in 1816 and he continued to hold it in 1827, when Thomas Lincoln surrendered half of his claim and received a patent for 80 acres signed by President John Quincy Adams.

Near the Lincoln home in Indiana was a country store and post office called Jonestboro. For a time Lincoln clerked at this store and, when not employed, he frequently went there to read the newspaper and listen to the older men discuss politics.

Lincoln must have heard much about Vincennes, its history and its pioneer life, at the Jonestboro store. William Jones, (2) the proprietor, had been born at Vincennes in the year 1800 and he had lived there until after he reached manhood. His father, a Scotchman, had established the first hotel in Vincennes, which was called the "Jonestboro."

### The Migration.

In March, 1830, when Lincoln was 21 years of age, the family migrated from Spencer county, Indiana, to Macon county, Illinois. The party passed through Vincennes and crossed the Wabash river at that point. It was on this occasion that Lincoln first saw a printing press at the office of The Western Sun and General Advertiser, a newspaper which was established in 1806 and is published today. The Vincennes Sun, Albert T. Reid, a distinguished artist, has drawn a picture depicting this incident, which he has fittingly called "First Meeting of the Two Great Emancipators."

There is a tradition that the Lincoln family spent three days in Vincennes on this occasion, during which time they camped near the Cov. William Henry Harrison home. There was a blacksmith shop nearby, and it is said that the tires on one of the Lincoln wagons were set at this shop while Lincoln waited. What did young Lincoln do, and whom did he meet while he was in Vincennes? Did he view the ruins of old Fort Sackville, where George Rogers Clark won his memorable victory over the British in 1779? Did he visit the struggling little Vincennes university out on the north edge of the old town? Did he meet Col. Francis Vigo, the distinguished French entrepreneur in his 90th year? Did he talk with Gen. Washington Johnston, Indiana's first lawyer, who came to Vincennes in 1793, and who dealt a death blow to the institution of human slavery in the Indiana Territorial legislature in 1808?

### Met Editor Stout.

Inasmuch as Lincoln visited The Sun office we may indulge the presumption that he did meet and talk with Elihu Stout (3) its editor and publisher, who was a personal friend of Andrew Jackson, and who established the first newspaper in the state.

Little did Lincoln think as he walked about the streets of Vincennes that in 12 years he would take as his wife Mary Todd, whose great uncle, John Todd Jr., had in 1779 established the first civil government at Vincennes, under a



OLD SUN OFFICE,  
Corner First and Bunting-streets, where Lincoln First saw a printing press in 1830.



ALLEN MANSION,  
505 Main street, Vincennes, where Lincoln was a frequent guest

commission from the Governor of the door and announced that the town was full of Democrats, who were threatening to break up the Whig-meeting. So great was the commotion that Lincoln was obliged to stop speaking. He calmly took a seat and awaited the outcome. After a time the Democrats withdrew and Lincoln resumed his address. It is said that a number of well-seasoned hickory clubs had a prominent part in the withdrawal of the unwelcome Democrats.

After the speaking, Lincoln and Judge Ellis rode on horseback to the home of Brucetville eight miles north of Vincennes, where the former had been advertised to address a political meeting. The Democrats had learned of the proposed gathering and had arranged one for the same evening with Lieut. William W. Carr (5) of Vincennes as their speaker. As might have been expected from the excited state of politics at the time, the proximity of the two meetings aroused party loyalty to a high pitch. Lincoln and Dubois determined to break up the other's meeting. The night was made hideous with the rattle of tin cans and bells and the blow of cowhorns. In spite of all the din and uproar of the younger element, a few grown up male radicals and partisan women sang and cheered loudly for their favorites, who kept up with their flow of political information. Lieut. Carr stood in the doorway and addressed a crowd about him, while a local politician acted as grand marshal of the night and urged the yelling Democrats to surge the Whig meeting.

### Lincoln Forced to Stop.

Meanwhile, Lincoln had been introduced by Major Bruce, (6) a distinguished veteran of the War of 1812, and was addressing an audience equally as enthusiastic in the village school house. He had spoken only a short time when a messenger came in great haste to



ELLIS MANSION,  
111 North Second street, now the Harmony club house, where Lincoln stayed in 1844.

Lincoln on the track for the appointment.

Dubois was right; within four years from that day Abraham Lincoln had been inaugurated president of the United States.

### Colonel Allen a Close Friend.

Another intimate friend of Lincoln was Col. Cyrus M. Allen (9) of Vincennes. Colonel Allen was one of the most prominent citizens of Indiana, a leader at the bar and among the first to advocate Lincoln's nomination for the presidency. He was a delegate to the Republican national convention held at Chicago in May, 1860. Lincoln's confidence in him is disclosed by a letter written a few weeks before the convention in which the suggestion was made that upon his arrival at Chicago Allen should get in touch with Jesse K. Dubois and Judge David Davis, who were Lincoln's pre-campaign managers.

It is said that Colonel Allen would find that an inconvenience

could have had almost any appointment from Lincoln that he might have desired, but he was content to remain at home, where he recruited one of the first Knox county regiments for the Civil war.

Colonel Allen's home was the old Bonner-Allen mansion, now occupied by Dexter Gardner & Son. Lincoln was a frequent guest there during the time he was riding the circuit in the practice of the law. The room that he was accustomed to occupy is now marked with a bronze tablet.

### Special Bed Made.

Members of the Allen family are responsible for the story that on one occasion after Lincoln had spent the night in the Allen home his host inquired how he had slept. Lincoln replied, jokingly, that he had slept very well, except for the fact that he had to use the big bed. Colonel Allen assured him that when he came again he would find that an inconvenience

## HOME OF WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON AT VINCENNES



# D VINCENNES

Vincennes Principal City  
Of State During Time the  
Lincolns Lived in Indiana



OLD BRUCE HOME  
at Bruceville, where Lincoln lodged in 1844.



OLD SCHOOLHOUSE AT BRUCEVILLE, NEAR VINCENNES  
WHERE LINCOLN SPOKE IN 1844.



THE DUBOIS HOMESTEAD  
in Lawrence county, Illinois, opposite Vincennes, birthplace of Jesse  
K. Dubois.

remedied. After Lincoln left the years ago, when it was deposited Colonel went to a local cabinet shop and had made a handsome walnut bed full eight feet long. When Lincoln again visited the Allen home he found this unusual piece of furniture in his room.

While Lincoln was president, Colonel Allen visited West Point to witness the graduation of son from the military academy. On his way home he stopped at Washington to visit his old friend in the White House. When he presented himself at the executive mansion a secretary inquired his name and business. To this Allen replied, "Oh, just tell Abe that old Red Top wants to see him." Allen had bright auburn hair and was known as "Red Top" among his most intimate friends. When this strange message was carried to Lincoln he said that his old friend from Vincennes should be admitted immediately. On the occasion of this visit Lincoln gave Colonel Allen's daughter, Grace, a five dollar gold coin. It was kept in the family until a few

#### Another Story.

The Lincoln associations clustering around the old Allen house at Vincennes suggest another story significantly appropriate to this sketch.

After the death of Col. Allen, the gloom of the old mansion faded with the passing of the years. It became necessary for the large capacious house to be utilized for rooming purposes. One day in the early eighties, there arrived in Vincennes an ambitious and adventurous lad of eighteen. The historic setting of the city gripped him so that after a week of wandering amidst the old landmarks, he became imbued with the desire to make Vincennes his home. He obtained a position as a cub reporter for a local newspaper. When he started in quest of a lodgings place Drawn, as by fate, he stood before the door of the Allen mansion to be welcomed by Mrs. Allen. The estimable lady showed him through the stately old house, which had

been built in 1825, and finally escorted him to the commodious room above the kitchen which he said Lincoln had frequently occupied. The young man viewed the situation with mingled adoration and awe, and soon found himself the occupant of the room glorified by Lincoln. In this room the boy dreamer was seized with a burning passion to know more about Abraham Lincoln, and under the spur of that ambition, he resolved to complete his college education. In due time he became a learned scholar, orator and divine occupying pupils in various outstanding metropolitan churches, including the historic Marylebone church of London. He became the first general secretary of the World Court League of America and the author of "Abraham Lincoln, Man of God," now in its seventh edition.

Here, we recall an interesting experience in the life of Lincoln himself. It was several months after the Cumberland Gap campaign of 1863. The president had summoned General Oliver Otis Howard to Washington. In his report, General Howard praised the loyalty of the people of the Cumberland. In telling the story afterwards, General Howard said:

"I shall never forget the look that came from the eyes of that wonderful man when he listened to me. He has come from among such people, and his big heart went out to them. He laid his enormous bony hand on my shoulder and said to me:

"Howard, if you come out of all this hazard and misery alive, and I pray God that you may, I want you to do something for those mountain people, who have been shut out of the world in these years. I know them. If I live, I will do all I can to aid you, and between the two we can do them the justice they deserve. Please remember this, and if God is good to us we may be able to speak of this later."

"That time never came."

General Howard continued, "but at the close of the war I decided that my own aim in life would be to carry out the President's wish, and I watched for my chance."

General Howard's chance to carry out the wish expressed to him by Lincoln did not come for many years. But on February 12, 1897 the Lincoln Memorial University was established through his efforts at Cumberland Gap, where Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia join, and almost in sight of West Virginia.

For many years the University was a struggling little institution forced to turn away more students than it could house. But in 1916 its board of trustees began to cast about for a man of vision who could make of it the kind of an institution which Lincoln had in

## Lincoln Had Many Friends In Vincennes

mind in his suggestion to General Howard. The board was successful in its search. They found a man peculiarly fitted for the task. He was none other than Dr. John Wesley Hill born just about the time Lincoln pleaded with General Howard to provide an educational opportunity for his people, who, as he had said, had been inspired in a strange town had been inspired to high endeavor by the Lincoln stories associated with the old Allen mansion in Vincennes.

A few years ago Dr. Hill returned to Vincennes and obtained permission to remove a window, opposite the bed in which Lincoln slept, from the Lincoln room in the Allen mansion. This he carried back to Cumberland Gap, where it is preserved in the nucleus of the University. There is also a picture of General Allen and the gold coin which Lincoln gave her, as a memento to the boys and girls of the mountains of the great part that Lincoln played in moulding the life and character of their beloved Chancellor.

What more appealing argument than this could be found for preserving as shrines of the republic the places associated with the life of the immortal Lincoln!

## Personnel of Choral Society

Following is the personnel of the Vincennes Choral Society which will participate in the Lincoln Migration Centennial celebration:

Frank H. Banyard, Director; Executive Committee: Will Tel Wait, chairman; Marion Byers treasurer; Miss Marion Spotts, secretary; John S. St. John, Mrs. W. L. Holt, Mrs. Louis A. Bruehage, Mrs. W. O. Cantwell, Waiter Davis, V. L. Eikenberry.

Orchestra—R. L. Kimbley, director; Violins, R. L. Kimbley, M. Gwendolyn Kimbly, Nadine M. Ligian, Prosper Elueve, Aly Black, Cello, Raymond Rielag; Horns, H. L. Kimmons, Charles Dawson, Clarinet, H. E. Mayall, Francis Parrett, Robert Grumiaux, Robert Grumiaux, Trombones, Kimmons, Bob Morris, Trompette, J. Bulbert Johnson, J. Bert King, Saxophones, Robert Brock; Flute, Tewalt; John Jordan; String bass, O. L. Dunn; Bass, William Kern; Organ, John S. St. John.

Chorus, Ruth Alexander, Elea-

## OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF CLARK MEMORIAL PLAN



# LINCOLN'S VINCENNES FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES



(1) John Badollet, (1758-1837).

Born in Geneva, Switzerland, the son of a Lutheran minister. Was boyhood friend of Albert Gallatin, who became Secretary of the Treasury in President Jefferson's cabinet. Deciding to migrate to America in 1776, and being without sufficient funds for the passage of both, they pooled their resources and drew lots. Gallatin won, and they started their journey to America. Went to Badollet. Through Gallatin's influence, Badollet was appointed Registrar of the United States Land office in Vincennes in 1804, and served until 1836, when he was succeeded by his son, Albert Gallatin Badollet, who was a member of the first class to graduate from the United States military academy. John Badollet was a member of the convention that framed the first constitution of Indiana in 1816.



(2) William Jones, (1800-1864).

Born at Vincennes, the son of a Scotchman who had been the proprietor of the first hotel at Vincennes, called the "Jones Box." Lived at Vincennes until 27 years old. Established a store and was postmaster at Jonesboro, a pioneer settlement near the Lincoln home in Spencer county, Indiana. Served as a member of the Indiana legislature as the representative from Vigo county from 1838 to 1841. Became a colonel in the Civil war, and was killed at the battle of Atlanta, July 22, 1864.



(3) Elihu Stout, (1782-1860).

Born at Newark, New Jersey. Learned printers trade, came west, and obtained employment on the "Kentucky Gazette," published at Lexington. Remained there several years, and then removed to Nashville, Tennessee. Made the acquaintance and won the lifelong friendship of Andrew Jackson. Established the "Indiana Gazette," afterwards called "The Western Sun" at Vincennes in 1804, the first newspaper in the state. Appointed postmaster of Vincennes in 1815. Twice elected City Recorder. Active in the establishment of Free Masonry in Indiana, and the first Master of Vincennes Lodge No. 1; also served as Grand Master of the Indiana Grand Lodge.



(4) Abner T. Ellis, (1805-1864).

Born at Brown university and studied law at Harvard. Admitted to the bar in 1828. Came to Vincennes and began the practice of law. He was eminently successful in his profession. He was for many years president of the board of trustees of the Borough of Vincennes. He was one of the active promoters in organizing the Wabash Navigation Company and in building the locks and dam at the Grand Rapids of the Wabash river, near Mount Carmel, Illinois. He was the first president of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad company, which built what is now that part of the Baltimore & Ohio extending from Cincinnati to St. Louis. He served as probate judge of Knox county, and also as state senator.



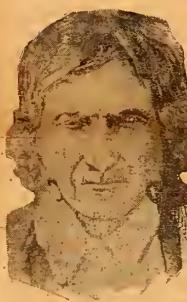
(5) William W. Carr, (1822-1847).

Born in Vincennes, the step-son of Judge John Moore, the first mayor of Vincennes. Admitted to the bar in his twenty-first year. Was well educated, and a brilliant lawyer. Appointed by the court as prosecuting attorney in 1845. He was a fluent and eloquent speaker and took a prominent part in the councils of the Democratic party. President Polk appointed him secretary of Oregon territory, but he held the position for only a short time, when he was compelled to resign in consequence of failing health.

## Knew Lincoln

These are pictures of men prominent in Vincennes when Lincoln came here in 1830. The names of the men mentioned in the historical article, written by Curtis Shakespeare, are placed in the margin.

You will note a number after each name. These numbers correspond with numbers in Mr. Shakespeare's article and are placed for easy reference.



(6) William Bruce, (1776-1854).

Born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When nine years of age removed with his parents to Kentucky. Located at Vincennes in 1805. Same year purchased a farm of 200 acres in Knox county, Indiana. Laid out the town of Bruceville in 1817. Took an active part in General Harrison's campaigns against the Indians. Helped build Fort Harrison and rose to the rank of major. For years he conducted a tavern at Bruceville. He was the father of 25 children.



(9) Cyrus M. Allen, (1817-1883).

Born in Clark county, Kentucky. Graduated from law department of Transylvania university in 1837. Located at Vincennes and began practice of the law there in 1844. Soon became a leading member of the bar. Took an active part in the organization of the Republican party. Was twice elected to the state legislature, and served one term as Speaker of the House. Recruited a regiment for service in the Civil war. Nominated for Congress in 1866, but was defeated. Took an active part in promoting internal improvements, including Ohio & Mississippi, Evansville & Terre Haute, and Cairo & Vincennes railroads. Member of the board of trustees of Vincennes university.

Vincennes welcomes new industries and investments and its commercial organizations stand ready to assist them.

Vincennes has an area of three square miles and its population exceeds 20,000 of which 96.3 per cent are Americans.

Vincennes streets are practically all paved, the paving being of the highest quality—asphalt having been used.

Vincennes has more than 4 miles of boulevard lights and is a splendidly illuminated city.



(8) Jesse K. Dubois, (1811-1876).

Born in Lawrence county, Illinois, opposite Vincennes, the son of Capt. Tessaint Dubois, pioneer French trader. Educated at Indiana university. Served in Illinois legislature from 1840 to 1840, also from 1842 to 1844. Was County Clerk, County Judge, Recorder of U. S. Land Office at Palestine, Illinois, and State Auditor from 1857 to 1865.

Was a prominent Whig and active in the organization of the Republican party. Intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln throughout his political career, and one of the active pall bearers at his funeral. He urged Richard Yates, the war governor of Illinois, to give U. S. Grant the commission that started him on his illustrious career. He was the father of Hon. Fred T. Dubois, late United States Senator from Idaho.

(7) John Law, (1796-1873). Born at New London, Conn. Graduated from Yale in 1818. Located at Vincennes in 1837. Served a term as prosecuting attorney, and was elected to the Legislature in 1832. Elected Circuit Judge in 1830. Appointed by President Van Buren as receiver of public moneys for the

## RESERVATIONS

On account of the limited facilities for the evening banquet and the noon luncheon, it is imperative that advanced reservations be made by those who expect to attend these functions. First preference will be given to our guests from out of the city, provided they are advised of the number that may be expected.

The attached coupon should be returned immediately. If you have friends in your community that expect to attend, please call their attention to the necessity of making early reservations.

## RESERVATION

Miss Aline Robinson,  
Care Chamber of Commerce,  
Vincennes, Indiana.

Please reserve for me the following tickets for the LINCOLN MIGRATION CENTENNIAL, March 6th, 1930:

Tickets for noon luncheon, at 75c.....\$.....

Tickets for evening banquet, at \$1.50.....\$.....

Remittance enclosed for.....\$.....

Name.....

Address.....

P. S.: If you desire hotel accommodations for the night of March 6th, please indicate your wishes here.

## Facts About Lincoln

(Continued From Page 3)  
gross votes \$500,000,000 to prosecute war.

1862 Feb. 12, fifty-third birthday. Feb. 20, Lincoln's son, William Wallace Lincoln, died in White House. July 2, calls for 300,000 volunteers for three years. Aug. 4, calls for 300,000 militia for nine months. Sept. 22, Emancipation Proclamation issued.

1863 Jan. 1, all slaves declared free. Feb. 12, fifty-fourth birthday. Oct. 17, Lincoln calls for 300,000 volunteers. Nov. 19, delivers famous Gettysburg address.

1864 Feb. 12, fifty-fifth birthday. March 9, Grant made Commander-in-chief. July 18 calls for 500,000 men. Nov. 8, Lincoln re-elected. Dec. 19, calls for 200,000 volunteers.

1865 Feb. 1, thirteenth amendment providing for prohibition of slavery adopted by Congress. Feb. 12, Lincoln's fifty-sixth birthday.

April 3, fall of Richmond. April 4 and 5, Lincoln visits Richmond. April 9, Lee surrenders to Grant. April 11, Lincoln delivers his last speech from Window of White House. April 14, Lincoln shot in Ford's theater by John Wilkes Booth. April 15, Lincoln dies. April 19, funeral at White House. May 4, Lincoln laid to rest at his old home, Springfield, Illinois.

Vincennes is one of the few cities having four railway trunk lines running east, west, north and south, them being the Baltimore and Ohio, the Chicago and Eastern Illinois, the Pennsylvania; and the Big Four.

Vincennes is within 60 miles of the center of population of the United States.

Vincennes through the Central States Gas Company burns natural gas with the lowest estimate of the supply being at least until 1945.

# THE BAREFOOT TRAIL

## Lincoln National Memorial Highway

The idea of building a great memorial highway to connect the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln at Hodgenville, Kentucky, his mother's grave at Lincoln City, Indiana, and his tomb at Springfield, Illinois, is not new. The first definite step in that direction was taken in 1911 when the Kentucky Legislature adopted a resolution authorizing the highway between Hodgenville and Elizabethtown as the "Lincoln Way."

In 1911 the General Assembly of the State of Illinois adopted a joint resolution requesting the board of trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library to investigate and determine the route traveled by Lincoln through that state on his migration from Indiana in 1830. The Historical Library appointed Dr. Charles Thompson of the University of Illinois to make this investigation. After an exhaustive research his report was presented to the 49th General Assembly of Illinois in 1915.

### Commission Appointed.

In the meantime, in February, 1915, the General Assembly of Indiana has enacted a law directing the Governor to appoint a commission of two persons to determine the route traveled by



the Lincoln family through Indiana from their home near Gentryville to the Illinois line in 1830. Governor Samuel M. Ralston appointed on this commission Prof. Jesse Weik and Senator Joseph M. Cravens. After an extended personal investigation they reported their conclusions to the Governor on December 15, 1916.

For ten years following the report was allowed to stand with-

out further official action, although sentiment for the ultimate construction of this great memorial highway continued to take form and crystallize.

Early in the year 1922 the late Henry R. Rathbone, Congressman-at-large from Illinois, introduced in the National House of Representatives a resolution (H. R. No. 10069) which would have committed the federal government to

the policy of taking over the construction of this proposed highway. The untimely death of Mr. Rathbone postponed the hope of an early consideration for this resolution.

At the 1923 session of the Illinois legislature a joint resolution was introduced by the Governor of that state to instruct the Department of Public Works and Buildings to collect data on the location and cost of constructing the Lincoln National Memorial Highway, and to provide for marking it in an appropriate manner. Governor Emerson has issued instructions in accordance with this resolution.

Approved by Three States.

In March, 1923, the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives adopted a concurrent resolution extending the co-operation of the executive officials and the highway commission of that state, as might be required to insure the immediate construction of this memorial highway.

Thus, on five occasions in the past 20 years the establishment of this great memorial has been officially endorsed by the people of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. During the past year the movement has gained great momentum. An incorporated association with a large membership has been effected in Illinois, and similar organizations are in process of formation in Indiana and Kentucky.

When completed, as it certainly will be, the Lincoln National Memorial Highway, will constitute one of the most unique and impressive memorials in the world. It will begin at Hodgenville, Kentucky, where the people of the United States have preserved the humble little cabin where Lincoln was born in a classic marble temple, surrounded by a beautiful national park. Thence it will proceed by way of Elizabethtown,

Kentucky, cross the Ohio river into Indiana, and terminate at Lincoln City. Here Lincoln lived from the age of eight years until 21, and here is the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, his mother. The Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Park is maintained here by the State of Indiana. The Lincoln Union, incorporated by a special act of the Indiana legislature in 1927, is now undertaking to enlarge this beautiful park and to erect thereon a suitable memorial to the mother of Lincoln. Nearly \$300,000 has already been raised by popular subscription for that purpose.

From Lincoln City the memorial highway will continue on in a northwesterly direction to Vincennes. It was at that point that the Lincoln family crossed the Wabash river on their way to Illinois in 1830, and here Lincoln first saw a printing press. In Illinois the highway will pass dozens of places associated with the life of Lincoln. Among these might be mentioned the graves of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, the place where Lincoln last visited his stepmother after her election as the president of Charleston, where one of the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates was held, the Thomas Lincoln farm, and Springfield, where the Lincoln tomb may be seen, and where is still preserved his home, the property of the state. From Springfield the highway will be extended to Petersburg, surveyed by Lincoln, past the Old Salem State Park, where Lincoln reconstructed the log village which Lincoln spent his early manhood. Here also is the grave of Ann Rutledge. The highway will end at Beardstown, Illinois.

In years to come millions of persons will travel the Lincoln National Memorial Highway, to learn at first hand the inspiring story of the life of this most interesting character in human history.

## A Tribute To Lincoln

AN EDITORIAL FROM THE VINCENNES SUN

February is the month of the birthdays of the two greatest Presidents of the United States and thereby furnishes an appropriate time for meditation concerning the glory of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln reflected in the glory of their homes, where poverty and wealth brought forth the same nobility of character, the same religious aspiration, the same lofty patriotism, the same devotion to the ideals of democracy. The steady columns of Mt. Vernon and the rough logs of Hodgenville cabin enter into the very fabric of our staunch civilization and are emblematic of the sturdy strength of those whom Americans love to honor.

Next to the name of Washington none stands higher on the roll of illustrious Americans than that of Abraham Lincoln. Indeed, the 16th President of the United States, the skillful pilot who guided the ship of state through the stormy period of the Civil War, is one of the most majestic figures in history. The occasion was great, and he was more than equal to it, but rose above it in such magnificent proportions as to impress the whole civilized world with his statesmanship. While he cannot be called the "Father of His Country," he has been denominated its "Saviour." The tragic close of his life by the hand of an assassin gave him the character of a martyr and has rendered his memory peculiarly sacred.

Abraham Lincoln stands supreme as the representative of the best manhood of his day, possessed with ingrained versatility, natural power, home spun worth and lofty steadfastness, for he was in his youth a farm hand, store clerk, mill superintendent, stump speaker, rail splitter, boat builder, postmaster, reader, inventor, grocer, surveyor, steamboat pilot, captain of volunteer and Indian fighter, and later in life state legislator, lawyer, presidential elector, debater, candidate for the United States Senate and vice president, orator of national renown, President, commander-in-chief of vast armies and fleets, emancipator, hero and martyr.

Abraham Lincoln was a Pennsylvanian by descent, a Virginian by parentage, a Kentuckian by birth, an Indiana by education and an Illinois by residence—thus summing up in his single personality all the qualities that go to the making of the true type of the manhood distinctly of our race, it is truly said of him: American in his virtues, American in his imperfections and superlatively American in all that went to make him great. His pioneer life in Indiana was a type of the pioneer land in which he lived. If ever there was a man who was a part of the time and country he lived in it was he. The simple respect for labor won in the school of hard knocks and incorporated into blood and muscle, the same unmeasuring loyalty to the simple virtues of temperance and industry and integrity; the same sagacious

judgment which had learned to be quick-eyed and quick-brained in the constant presence of emergency; the same direct and clear thought about things social, political and religious, that were in him supremely, stamped Abraham Lincoln "The First American."

From his youth to the hour of his death, Abraham Lincoln, by word and deed set an example for the youth and manhood of today, worthy of study and emulation. As a youth Lincoln succeeded because he WANTED to learn. He walked miles to get a book to study and read it eagerly. He had no comfortable room, no reading lamp and chair to sit in and he had no writing paper. He took a piece of board and wrote and figured on it by the light of the wood fire as he lay on the bare floor in his cabin home. Then when the board was covered with the figures and words of his lesson, he shaved it off with a plane and wrote on it again.

Lincoln's respect for womanhood was a particular trait of his character. He was known as a rough man, with his hands and feet, but his heart was tender and gentle. He rarely fought, but when a local rowdy used profane language before a woman in his country store, Lincoln dragged him by the nap of his neck, threw him on the ground outside of the building and rubbed smartweed in his mouth and and taught him to use better language.

His farewell address to his neighbors at Springfield before he started on his journey to Washington to assume the task of the presidency gave an insight to his lofty character and his faith in God, when he said: "I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of God I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all yet will be well. To his care commanding you, as I hope in your prayers you will command me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

Here is a gem of wisdom which fell from his lips and which should be reprinted every year and displayed on the walls of every court room in the land: "Let reverence for the law be breathed by every American mother to the lipsing babe that prattles on her lap, let it be taught in schools, in universities, in colleges and seminaries; let it be written in primers, spelling books and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice; and, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay of all sexes and tongues and colors and conditions sacrifice unhesitatingly upon its altars."

## Facts About Vincennes

Vincennes on Feb. 25, 1929, sold more than 401,000 George Rogers Clark commemorative 2¢ postage stamps.

Vincennes is the county seat of Knox county, the second richest agricultural county in Indiana (2,485 farms).

Vincennes is the home of Vincennes university, which was established in 1806.

Vincennes has 47½ miles of paved streets.

Vincennes has 95½ miles of sewers.

Vincennes has a union railroad station with covered sheds and about 60 daily passenger trains arrive and depart from it.

Vincennes is the hub of five state paved highways.

Vincennes is the terminal of eight bus lines operating 35 coaches to 150 cities having a population of over 7,000,000.

Vincennes is the junction of three national highways; they being the Dixie Bee, Lincoln Trail and Midland Trail.

Vincennes through the Interstate Public Service Company has a generating system with power resources of 60,000 horse power.

Vincennes fire department is completely motorized and adequate.

Vincennes' drinking water is pure.

Vincennes is a "panic proof" city. Periods of depression

## Prairie Schooner Parade Feature

C. D. Hause of Terre Haute is the owner of the prairie schooner which will feature the place in the Lincoln parade made on March 6.

Hause is a collector of historical relics and obtained the schooner from the grandson of the original owner.

In 1826, John Bullion and his family came to Parke county from Ohio in this wagon. It has been carefully preserved and is in good condition. It even has the old fashioned tar bucket and Paul Revere lantern.

throughout the country are seldom noticed.

Vincennes has about 200 acres of playgrounds and parks.

Vincennes has two splendid newspapers, the Commercial (morning), and the Sun (evening).

Vincennes public library contains more than 20,000 volumes.

Vincennes has a county owned hospital of unusual beauty and is adequate for all needs.

Vincennes is well supplied with club homes—the most notable being those of the Masons, Elks, Knights of Columbus, Eagles, Harmony Society, and Fortnightly Club.

Vincennes has nine public schools, seven free kindergartens, and six parochial schools. Pupils in the public schools number about 3,500, and those in the parochial schools number about 1,200.

Vincennes has a 5¢ street car fare and splendid service.



## Casey Float at Vincennes

Casey Banner-Times.

Vincennes observed the one hundredth anniversary of the migration of Abraham Lincoln from Indiana to Illinois in March 1830, with a Lincoln Migration Centennial. Delegations from cities and towns all along the Lincoln route, were in attendance at the celebration.

Casey had her part in the affair, Billy Davidson going down with a Casey float which bore the four Lincoln cabins, the Kentucky birthplace, the first Indiana cabin, the second Indiana cabin in which Abe's mother died, and the later one built at Goose Nest, Ill. They are all the work of Mr. Davidson. On the float also were the covered wagon and four oxen and other features of Billy Lincoln's display seen recently in the Goble show room.

Dr. C. M. Harris was in attendance as a member of the Lincoln Memorial Highway executive committee.

2-17-35

# Letter Reveals New Story in Life of Abraham Lincoln

*6/28/31*  
A new Abraham Lincoln story hitherto unpublished is revealed in a letter received by The Sun from C. M. Olin, now living at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., but who was connected here with the Standard Oil company for 30 years and is well known among the older residents.

His letter follows:

Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.,  
June 27, 1930  
TO THE VINCENNES SUN  
Gentlemen:

Upon receipt of your Lincoln Memorial Edition of March 6th, I forwarded a copy of this paper to my aged uncle who lives in Napa, Calif., and is now 95 years old, but whose first 25 years were spent in Southern Indiana.

Upon receipt of this paper I received the following letter from him relative to early Indian history and more especially the life of Abraham Lincoln:

Napa, California.  
March 23, 1930  
"C. M. Olin,  
"Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.,  
"Dear Nephew:

"Your letter of March 16 is before me. The VINCENNES SUN also arrived giving me events in the history of Indiana that proved quite interesting to me, especially everything connected with the Lincoln celebration. I revere the memory of Abraham Lincoln more than any other departed American thoroughly honest and to the last the best and truest friend to either friend or foe.

A southern man who had been a member of the Rebel army, had fought in battle and was once taken prisoner said to me one day

when we were discussing the important men of the Civil war and who had an opportunity to pass correct judgment on the status of men, 'I consider Abraham Lincoln the greatest and best man of these United States, not excepting George Washington. The South made its greatest mistake by not recognizing his true merits.' Well do I remember the day of his first nomination for president in the Chicago convention. There were aspirants for the office besides Lincoln, the most important one being Senator Seward of New York. Greeley of the Tribune was a delegate and a Lincoln man absolutely and under all circumstances. He was in communication with the Cincinnati Commercial and gave a note to a young man who wired messages to that paper from time to time when given to him by Greeley as everybody proceeded to vote. (I will right here say that Horace Greeley, while a very excellent man of great integrity and good morals, was inclined when under great excitement to emphasize his thoughts with language not in harmony with church usage) and when a voice called, 'What are Seward's chances?' Greeley without looking around answer'd, 'Seward has gone to Hell and cannot return.' The young dispatcher sent the message to the Commercial with lightning speed and it was soon tacked on the board and was read by thousands. There was a commotion for a few minutes among Seward's friends who were expecting different news. But, the nomination of Lincoln soon set the matter at rest.

In speaking of Lincoln there was an incident in his career that has never been printed and as I was an interested witness to the event I take pleasure in relating it.

It was in 1861 during Lincoln's first canvass. I was in a little town called Eureka in Spencer County, Indiana. It was on Saturday afternoon when the people had all come to town. A dozen or more Democrats were standing in earnest conversation in the street fronting the house where I was staying.

A man was seen approaching who it appeared lived in Rockport, Ind., some ten miles distant. He was a strong and vigorous man. They all knew him and one of them exclaimed, "Here's our friend from Rockport; tell us how the election is going there. Is Breckenridge or Douglass ahead? Will Lincoln get any votes at all?" "Not many," replied the man from Rockport, "but there is one he will get and that is mine." "What?" exclaimed a brother Democrat, "Are you, an old time Democrat, going to vote for a black Republican? Why are you voting for Lincoln?"

"I am supporting him on account of his manhood," said he. "He was the first and only man who ever licked me." "Did you and Lincoln ever have a fight? Come tell us all about it," and they gathered about him forgetful of present politics or candidate.

"Well, gentlemen," said he, "I have been a citizen of Rockport a long time. In the early history of the town we used to have some lively times. Many were the fist fights on public occasions and many were the contests I had with my fellow men. I was very strong and in my fights I always won. For many years I was considered the best man in the county. In this fact I took great pride. One day a man came in Junkerville, a town some twenty miles distant, and when we were conversing about men of strength and I began to boast about licking any man in the county, the young man observed, 'We have a pretty strong man in Junkerville that some people think is without equal.' That statement touched me. Fighters are jealous people as well as others and I said to him, 'Whenever you and he are in town, find me and give me an introduction; I want to see him; now, do not forget.'

"A few weeks after his promise here he came with the strong youth from Junkerville. I said to him, 'I have heard, Mr. Lincoln, you are a young man of superior strength.' 'Not very,' he replied. 'Well, I am considered the best man in the county up to this time,' said I, 'and I don't allow it to be said that there is anyone my superior and I wish to fight with you and let the results settle the matter.' 'What?' said the long-legged, long-armed young man, 'You mean I should fight you when there is no enmity between us? You are cer-

tainly joking.' 'No,' said I, 'I am in dead earnest. This is not a fight of enemies but a friendly battle to decide which is the better man.' 'Well,' said Lincoln, 'I will agree that you are superior without any fighting. I am no fighter.'

'But' that will not settle it,' said I, 'I want the actual proof. The fact is that we must fight until one or the other says 'Enough' and you may prepare now for the fight for it has to be.' 'Well, if I must, I must' replied Lincoln as he removed his short, worsted coat and the war commenced.

"I swung my right for his chin but missed. My left was equally unable to land. I was always too far away. 'I can't get close enough to you,' said I. 'You are as close as I want you to get,' said the youth smiling. I tried again and again but his long arms kept me at a distance. I really got tired and became incautious and he was quick to see his opportunity. He became an octopus. His arms were around my back like hooks of steel and in less than ten seconds I was flat on my back while a strong hand was gripping my throat that greatly disturbed my breathing. I had just enough breath left to say 'Enough' and he relaxed his hold and assisted me to my feet. I took his hand, saying, 'You are the best man. Let us be friends' and we have been friends ever since.

"Abe proved to be an honest man and if elected will make an honest President. Yes, I will vote for Abe."

There was not a dissenting voice. The company disbanded, thinking no more of politics and considering solely Lincoln's first battle and his first victory.

Yours truly,  
Your Uncle,  
C. B. Seeley.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1933.

**Chicago Daily Tribune**  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

**DEDICATION AT VINCENNES.**

The night comes on and darkness falls  
Where but a few short hours  
Was pride and pomp and ceremony  
And all that wealth and politics could muster  
To dedicate a pillared shrine  
And the arched reaches of a mighty bridge.

The night comes on and darkness falls.  
How may the two come forth  
For whom all this is called?  
There was no place for them at the day's full height.  
Who would have had this Clark,  
    hungry and naked and cold;  
This Lincoln,  
    awkward and ugly and poor,  
Unlettered, uncultured, both!

The night comes on and darkness falls.  
The figures creep  
Across the great imposing structure of the bridge  
And seek the river's western bank,  
Where, back against some friendly trees,  
And weary feet soft washed by lapping waters,  
These two, who molded nations with their hands,  
Dream in the moonlight  
And meditate how man attempts in stone  
Atonement for the wrongs that he has done.

KATE HAWORTH.





# THE VINCENNES MEMORIAL



Publication No. 2 of  
**THE OLD POST ASSOCIATION**  
VINCENNES, INDIANA

## The Vincennes Memorial

THE National Memorial now being erected in Vincennes commemorates the winning of the old Northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the war of the American Revolution.

The old Northwest comprises the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and the part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi. The British government tried to exclude the thirteen colonies from this region. This, and the extension of the Province of Quebec to the Ohio River, was one of the causes of the Revolution. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Benjamin Franklin, and other patriotic leaders, looking toward the future, saw that in these western lands lay the real opportunity for America. The frontiersmen, in defiance of the British government, crossed the Allegheny mountains and began the settlement of Kentucky. When war broke out in 1775 the British at Detroit roused the Indians to destroy these settlements and to raid the whole frontier. A young Virginian, George Rogers Clark, secured help from Virginia for the defense of Kentucky. In spite of this, in 1776-77, settlers were continually massacred; Harrodsburg and two other forts alone were left in Kentucky.

Clark then conceived the brilliant plan of attacking the English posts and winning the old Northwest for Virginia and the United States. After great difficulty he gathered a force of about one hundred and fifty men on Corn Island, near the present Louisville. By a quick descent of the Ohio and a rapid march overland, he surprised and captured the towns on the Mississippi, Kaskaskia and Cahokia (July 4, 1778). The priest of the French in all this region, Father Pierre Gibault, without any conflict, secured the allegiance of Vincennes to the American cause.

The British commander in the Northwest, Colonel Henry Hamilton, countered by bringing his regulars and a large body of Indians from Detroit down the Wabash and taking possession of Vincennes. He rebuilt Fort Sackville

and in this strategic position planned in the spring to destroy Clark's forces, to organize the Indians and to harry the frontiers of the rebellious colonies. If he had succeeded, the West would have been lost and the patriotic armies in the east would have been deprived of men and supplies.

George Rogers Clark, however, prevented this by one of the boldest and most heroic exploits of the Revolution. He had already, by sheer personal force, intimidated most of the Indian tribes. He now gathered a force of one hundred and seventy-five men, half Virginians, half French (won by his magnetism to deathless loyalty) and in the dead of winter through regions declared impassable, marched against Hamilton. After he came to the Embarrass River, he marched through water without food for three days, ferrying across the Wabash on improvised canoes and tree trunks. The fourth day he forced his way across "drowned" lands in water up to the men's shoulders, part of the way breaking the ice before him with his sword. After these incredible exertions he attacked Fort Sackville, defended by regular soldiers and cannon, and brought Hamilton to surrender, (February 25, 1779).

As the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781 made certain the independence of the United States, the victory of Clark at Vincennes made certain the possession of the interior of the continent and the further continental expansion of the United States.

The old Northwest, ceded in the Treaty of 1783, was the first and the most important acquisition of territory ever made by the United States. It decided the Civil War; it gave nine presidents to the United States; it contains a fifth of the nation's population, nearly a fourth of its wealth, and three of its six largest cities.

It remained, however, for the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Clark's capture of Fort Sackville to bring recognition of its significance. Through the efforts of a few citizens of Vincennes and a committee of the Indiana Historical Society, the City of Vincennes and Knox County expended some \$250,000 for the purchase of part of the site of Fort Sackville. To this, the State of Indiana has added more than \$650,000 and is acquiring title to the

whole tract upon which the fort stood. The national government has appropriated \$1,000,000 and authorized \$500,000 additional for the erection here of a national memorial.

Clem J. Richards of Terre Haute is president of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission of Indiana; Senator Simeon D. Fess of Ohio is chairman, and D. Frank Culbertson of Vincennes is vice-chairman and chairman of the executive committee of the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission in charge of the project. Bennett, Parsons, and Frost, of Chicago, are architects of the grounds. Frederic C. Hirons and F. W. Mellor, of New York, are architects of the building. Ezra Winter, of New York, is the painter of the seven large murals which will adorn the building, and Hermon A. MacNeil is the sculptor of the proposed statuary.

The memorial is to be a circular building of classical design surrounded by pillars, approximately ninety feet in diameter and seventy feet in height, standing on an extensive base on the high ground where the fort stood. It will be a commanding landmark and will afford a beautiful view of the bend of the Wabash River.

The new concrete bridge being erected across the Wabash by the Highway Departments of Illinois and Indiana, enters the memorial ground and will be an integral part of it. The bridge and the river wall on one side, and the old cathedral on the other, afford an unequaled setting for this memorial.

We are Boosting for the  
CLARK MEMORIAL  
Union Depot Hotel  
Vincennes, Indiana

 HOUGHTON & GREEN  
VINCENNES, INDIANA

Vincennes, Nov. 1st, 1931.

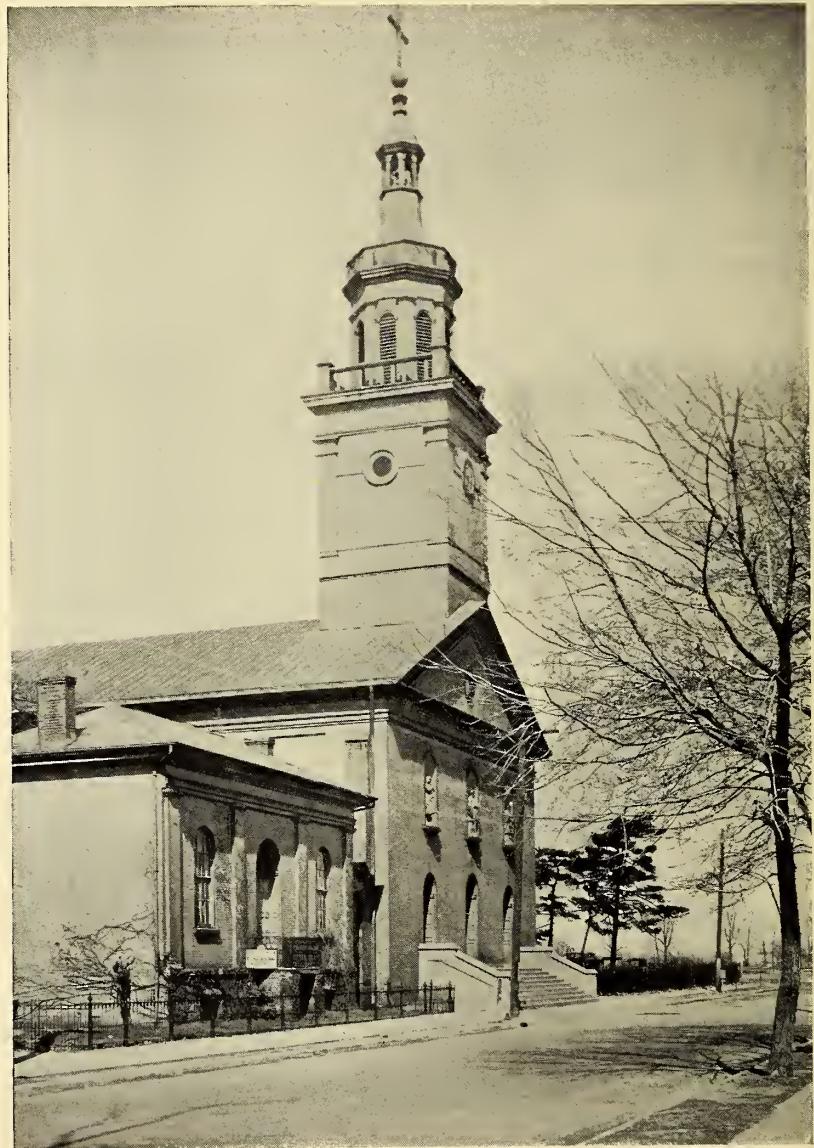
The Old  
Vincennes Cathedral  
AND  
ITS ENVIRONS





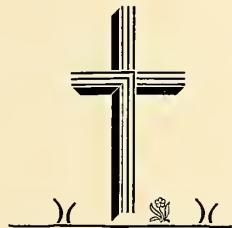


The Old Vincennes Cathedral  
and Its Environs



*The Old Vincennes Cathedral and Library*

THE OLD  
**Vincennes Cathedral**  
AND  
ITS ENVIRONS



PUBLISHED BY  
THE OLD CATHEDRAL ASSOCIATION  
VINCENNES, INDIANA  
1934



## *Foreword*



THIS pamphlet was originally designed to outline a program of restoration undertaken by the Old Cathedral Association of Vincennes, Indiana. In order that the reader might have a better comprehension of the importance and significance of the movement certain historical data was included. This material was prepared for the Association by Mr. Curtis G. Shake of Vincennes.





## THE OLD VINCENNES CATHEDRAL

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**N** THE SHADOW of the imposing granite memorial erected by the national government at Vincennes to commemorate the winning of the West in the War of the Revolution stands the Old Cathedral, one of the most interesting historic landmarks in the entire Mississippi valley. The land that it occupies was granted to the Catholic Church by the King of France, who obtained it through his missionaries from savage Indian tribes.

The present building, old as it appears to be, is the second to occupy the site. The original chapel, erected about the time Vincennes was founded, was a simple structure of logs, set in the ground perpendicularly, the interstices filled with adobe. A single door afforded the only entrance to the building, which was devoid of other openings, save a hole in the roof to allow the smoke from the log fire to escape. There were no windows, the only light obtainable issuing from tallow candles used on the crude altar and which cast faint shadows on the earthen floor and across the puncheon benches provided for the worshipers.

Within the walls of this rude house of worship, Father Gibault, the Patriot Priest of the Old Northwest, admin-



*The George Rogers Clark Memorial, on the Site of Ft. Sackville,  
Captured from the British, February 25, 1779*

istered the oath of allegiance to the cause of American liberty to the French inhabitants of Vincennes, and before its door General Henry Hamilton surrendered his British red-coats to Col. George Rogers Clark, on February 25, 1779. This was the same Father Gibault who served as an emissary for Col. Clark preceding the latter's memorable campaign against Vincennes. Yet, in his declining years he begged in vain for the modest grant of four or five acres of land, so that he might enjoy the comfort and security of his own cottage, garden and vineyard. Truly, republics are sometimes most ungrateful!

The present church was undertaken in 1824 but more than a decade was required for its completion. At the time

of its dedication it was generally regarded as the finest building in the state.

The erection of such a building was a monumental undertaking for the time and place. Many vicissitudes beset the task. In 1826 a hurricane of dreadful consequences, struck Vincennes destroying two walls of the unfinished structure. A resulting fire consumed much valuable material. But with resolute courage and determination the parish priest fitted out flatboats, sought donations of corn and other products of the soil and had these transported to the New Orleans market, fifteen hundred miles away. From this source sufficient funds were accumulated to complete the church.

As the original log church will ever be associated with the patriotic services of Father Gibault, so the present Cathedral suggests the devotion and scholarly wisdom of Simon Brute de Remur, the first Bishop of Vincennes.

When Bishop Brute arrived in Vincennes in 1834 he found the church far from finished. The classic steeple, which is its crowning glory, was his own conception. In 1838 he wrote:

“... Then the steeple is to be got up—the wood already cut . . . and soon to sail up our proud Wabash, and go to tell the skies, not a lie, as the tall column in London, but the true love of Vincennes for the honor of God.”

Bishop Brute was a good and a great man. He received the advantages of a fine education before he left his native land. His ancestors were for generations printers to the

Court of France. President John Quincy Adams, himself a great scholar, once wrote that Brute was "the most learned man of his day in America." He was a lover of books and had transported to this frontier outpost a most remarkable library of rare and interesting volumes. These were the nucleus about which was built the Old Cathedral Library, which is housed in a small brick building adjacent to the church. Here one may see beautiful old hand-illuminated parchments, the result of the patient labors of old monks of the middle ages, some of the very earliest examples of the printers' art, together with a great number of other interesting objects pertaining to early Vincennes and the Church.

Bishop Brute's consecration to his faith and his fine philosophy of life is well illustrated by the following excerpt from one of his letters to his brother, written near the close of his life:

"I have seen the Emperor Napoleon. I have seen the Empress and the Archduke of Austria. I have seen two Popes and the grandeur of two centuries, but what is it all in comparison to the joy experienced by a priest at the altar or a good Christian at the reception of Holy Communion?"

Under the altar of the Cathedral is a subterranean chapel where rest the remains of Bishop Brute and three of his successors in office.

Adjoining the Cathedral and between it and the Clark Memorial is the old French cemetery. Here lie buried hundreds of the pioneers of the Old Northwest, Indian



*The First Church, Erected about 1732*

maidens and braves, French adventurers, Spanish traders, British and American soldiers, and hardy backwoodsmen from Kentucky and Virginia, their strange differences of race and creed and caste all obliterated by an intervening century.

Among those sleeping here is Father Rivet who, for an annual stipend of two hundred dollars granted by Congress upon the recommendation of George Washington, conducted the first public school in the Old Post, open alike to French and Indian children. His grave remains wholly unmarked.

Another patriot who sleeps the eternal sleep in this hallowed spot is Major Joseph Bowman, second in command in the little army of George Rogers Clark. He received mortal wounds from the explosion of a cannon following the surrender of Ft. Sackville, February 25, 1779, when a battery of Clark's soldiers were firing the continental



*View of the Old French Cemetery at Vincennes*

salute of thirteen guns. The echoes of that memorable salute still reverberate through the pages of American history but the final resting place of the only American officer to make the supreme sacrifice in Clark's campaign is wholly devoid of the simplest headstone or marker.

In the tall steeple of the old church still hangs a little bell, brought from France in 1742, that served the first log chapel. It called the inhabitants of Vincennes together

when Father Gibault administered to them the oath of allegiance to the Continental Congress, and it announced to the world the surrender of Fort Sackville, which put an end to the dominion of England over the Mississippi valley and made possible the ultimate extension of our western frontier to the Pacific.

It is, indeed, the Liberty Bell of the Old Northwest, second in historical interest and importance only to that other bell tenderly preserved at Philadelphia and known to every school child in America.



*"The Liberty Bell of the Old Northwest,"  
Brought from France in 1742*

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## PIONEER EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENTS

*Centering About the Old Cathedral*

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VOLUMES might be written about the educational movements that were inaugurated in old Vincennes. While savage Indians yet lurked about the narrow winding streets of the Old Post there were a few noble souls who fully appreciated the necessity of establishing schools for the education of the youth. Conspicuous among these were three of the clergy connected with the old parish church of St. Francis Xavier, all of them of French birth, namely, Flaget, Rivet and Brute.

Father Benedict Joseph Flaget, afterwards the first Bishop of Bardstown, was the first person in Vincennes, if not indeed in the Old Northwest, to dream of a broad and comprehensive scheme of liberal education. Arriving in Vincennes in company with Gen. George Rogers Clark, who came on a governmental mission, December 21, 1792, he found the community in a state of social and spiritual desolation. A vivid word picture of conditions as they existed at Vincennes is painted by Count Volney, a French nobleman, who visited the settlement in 1794. Writing of the Indian population he says:

"The men and women roamed all day about the town, merely to get rum, for which they eagerly exchanged their peltry, their toys, their clothes, and at length, when they had parted with their all, they offered their prayers and entreaties, never ceasing to drink till they had lost their senses. Hence arise ridiculous scenes. They will take hold the cup with both hands, like monkeys, burst into unmeaning laughter, and gargle their beloved cup, to enjoy the taste of it the longer; and about the liquor with clamorous invitations, bawl aloud at each other, though close together; seize their wives and pour liquor down their throats, and, in short, display all the freaks of vulgar drunkenness. Sometimes tragical scenes ensue; they become mad or stupid, and falling in the dust or mud, lie a senseless log till next day. We found them in the streets by dozens in the morning, wallowing in the filth with the pigs. It was rare for a day to pass without a deadly quarrel, by which about ten men lose their lives yearly . . . They dwell separately, in mistrust,



*Little Chapel, Used by the Students of the College of Vincennes  
and St. Clare's Convent*

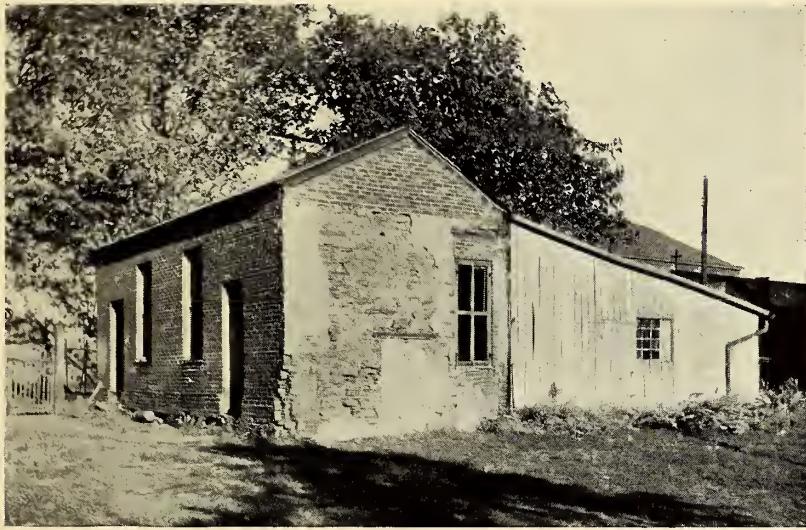
jealousy and eternal animosity. With them, what they want they have a right to, and what they have strength enough to seize is their own."

His description of the life and habits of the white settlers is almost as uncomplimentary:

"They know nothing at all of civil or domestic affairs: their women neither sew, nor spin, nor make butter, but pass their time in gossiping and tattle, while all at home is dirt and disorder. The men take to nothing but hunting, fishing, roaming in the woods and loitering in the sun. They do not lay up, as we do, for winter, or provide for a rainy day . . . If they trade, they try by exorbitant charges to make much out of little; for little is generally their all, and what they get they throw away upon Indian girls, in toys and baubles. Their time is wasted too in trifling stories of their insignificant adventures to *town* to see their friends. Thus they speak of New Orleans, as if it were a walk of half an hour, though it is fifteen hundred miles down the river."

Such were the sordid conditions with which Father Flaget found himself surrounded when he took up his duties as parish priest at Vincennes. The situation with reference to his church was equally as disheartening. The building, already old, was neglected, open to the weather and almost tottering. Out of a membership of nearly seven hundred souls he was able, with all his zealous efforts, to induce a mere dozen to approach holy communion during the Christmas festivities.

Father Flaget resolved to adopt the same methods that had been used among the degenerate Portuguese by the patron saint of his parish, St. Francis Xavier; he would seek to reach the hearts of the parents through those of



*All that Remains of the College of Vincennes, Founded in 1837*

the children. He accordingly opened a school for the latter, in which they were taught, along with the rudiments of learning, the principles of the catechism and the prayers of the Church. He also formed a singing class, and those of the children who had the best voices were exercised in singing French canticles. He encouraged agriculture and domestic manufactures. He had looms made, and purchased a house with lands, adjoining, with a view of training up youth to the different trades. His success might have been complete had he not been recalled to Baltimore by his Bishop at the end of two and a half years. He went away consoled by the reflection, however, that his labors had not been in vain. Whereas, only twelve adults could

be found to approach holy communion upon his arrival, at the time of his departure there were probably not more than that number in the entire village who were not pious communicants. His place in the field of education is unique. He was the father of vocational and musical education in the West.

Father Flaget had a worthy successor in the person of John Francis Rivet who came in 1796 and remained until his death which occurred in 1804. Inspired by the example of his predecessor, he took up the work and carried it forward with enthusiasm, assuming at the same time the roles of parish priest, village schoolmaster and missionary among the Indians. His good work attracted the favorable notice of the federal government and, on the personal recommendation of George Washington, the Congress of the United States granted him an annual salary of two hundred dollars, to aid him in his educational work. Thus, he became the first public school teacher in the territory. It would be a most fitting tribute if the school children of Indiana would undertake a "penny" fund to erect a suitable memorial at his unmarked grave.

Years rolled by and Flaget, the humble village priest, became a great Bishop. Ever mindful of the needs of his old parish on the Wabash, he resolved to do something for it. In 1818 he dispatched F. Jeanjean, one of his most brilliant young priests to Vincennes with instructions to establish a Catholic college there. The plan failed through a lack of local support, but, during his brief stay, Father

Jeanjean served for about a year as the head of the struggling Vincennes University.

In 1823 Bishop Flaget sent to Vincennes four Sisters of Charity from Nazareth, Kentucky. They founded a school for young ladies, called St. Clare's Convent and Female Academy, and successfully conducted it until 1834, when they were recalled. The year of their departure was the year of the arrival of Simon Brute de Remur, first Bishop of Vincennes, and with his coming the cause of education took on a renewed impetus. Four years later he procured from Emmitsburg, Maryland, four Sisters of Charity of a different community. When they came it was with the understanding that they would conduct St. Clare's Convent only until such time as the Diocese should have a sisterhood of its own. Accordingly, they withdrew in 1843 and on October 23rd of that year, St. Mary-of-the-Woods gave out of her own scant personnel a small colony of Sisters of Providence to take over the school at Vincennes. This marked the end of St. Clare's Convent and the beginning of St. Rose Academy.

In 1837 Bishop Brute founded the College of Vincennes and, in connection therewith, a theological seminary for the training of young men for the priesthood. These institutions were entrusted into the care of the Eudist Fathers, with the Rev. J. A. Vabret as president. A remnant of one of the buildings they occupied still stands on the Cathedral grounds. In 1839 the College of Vincennes, through the Bishop, purchased the old building north of

town, which was the first home of Vincennes University and the name of the former was changed to St. Gabriel's College. It was closed in 1845 by an order of the Superior-General of the Eudists and the old building became the home of St. Rose Academy. It was replaced by the present structure in 1884.

This is but a brief outline of the pioneer educational movements associated with the Old Cathedral at Vincennes. The sketch would not be complete, however, without mention of the fact that two of the most outstanding Catholic institutions of higher learning in America today had their inception in the Bishop's house at old Vincennes. These are the College of St. Mary-of-the-Woods and the University of Notre Dame.



*St. Clare's Convent and Female Academy, Founded in 1823*

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## PIERRE GIBAULT

*The Patriot Priest of the Old Northwest*

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*"For a time he carried buttoned within his cassock the fate of the American republic."*

PIERRE GIBAULT was a French-Canadian, born in Montreal, April 7, 1737. He was educated in the Seminary and College at Quebec and was ordained a priest March 19, 1768.

Soon after he set out for the Mississippi valley, then called the "Illinois Country," as a missionary. His first charge was at Kaskaskia.

Prior to the revolution he traveled about from post to post, following the streams and old trails and carrying the gospel to the settlers and savages. He suffered many privations and hardships, having been three times captured by hostile Indians.

When George Rogers Clark arrived unexpectedly at Kaskaskia and captured the British Commander without the firing of a shot, on July 4, 1778, Father Gibault was on the scene. Clark soon learned that the good priest was not only well informed about the affairs of the territory but that he also enjoyed the full confidence and esteem of the French settlers throughout the valley. The young

colonel immediately resolved, therefore, to win his support and, if possible, his active assistance. Father Gibault was not a person to make so serious a commitment without a full understanding of the principles involved. Clark therefore went into great detail with him, not only explaining the causes that had led up to the Revolution, but also the lofty provisions of the Declaration of Independence. In the end, Gibault was completely won over and cast his lot without reservation on the side of the colonies.

In August (1778) Father Gibault set out for Post Vincennes on an important mission, while Clark impatiently marked time at Kaskaskia. After a few weeks the Father returned with the happy news that he had administered the oath of allegiance to the French inhabitants of Vincennes and that the American flag was floating over Fort Sackville there. This would have brought to an end Clark's campaign in the west had not Governor Henry Hamilton, the British commander at Detroit heard of Gibault's "treachery." Resolved not to be so easily dispossessed of the rich Mississippi valley, Hamilton organized a detachment of Royal Redcoats from the famous King's Own Regiment and moved down to Vincennes.

In due time Clark learned that what had been accomplished single-handed, almost, by Father Gibault, would have to be done over again by force, if Vincennes were reduced. With the good priest's blessing ringing in their ears Clark's little army plunged into the icy waters of the flooded Illinois prairies and struck out boldly for the post on the Wabash, on February 5th, 1779. Twenty days later Fort Sackville surrendered and soon afterwards the proud

British Governor was on his way to Williamsburgh, the capital of Virginia, in chains. All of this was made possible by the fact that the French settlers at Vincennes, upon the advice of their priest, refused to go to the aid of the British garrison. Most of them remained idly in their homes while the battle raged, apparently unconcerned about the result, while a few, more bold than the rest, supplied Clark's little army with dry powder from their own scant supplies, or otherwise aided in the attack on the fort.

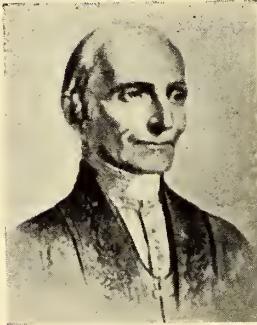
Historians quite generally agree that Clark's brilliant success was due, in a very large measure, to the patriotic services of Pierre Gibault in winning the sympathy of the French inhabitants at Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes. It is certainly a fitting tribute on the part of a great and powerful nation, therefore, that a statue should be erected at public expense to this pioneer patriot priest in the memorial grounds at Vincennes, immediately in front of the old French church that he served so loyally. But, unfortunately, Father Gibault did not live to know that history would accord him so prominent a place in the annals of the republic. He humbly petitioned his government for the grant of four or five acres of land—out of the millions he had helped to win—to the end that he might enjoy the comfort and security of “a dwelling with a yard and an orchard,” during his declining years. Denied this modest request, he removed to a place beyond the Mississippi, now known as New Madrid, Missouri. There, neglected and forgotten, he died in 1804. Even his place of burial went unnoticed and it is presumed that his grave was washed away by the floods of the Father of Waters.

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## SIMON BRUTE *de REMUR*

*The First Bishop of Vincennes*

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*"The most learned man of his day in America."* —JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

SIMON BRUTE, first bishop of the diocese of Vincennes, was born at Rennes, in the Province of Brittany, France, March 20, 1779. He came from a family which had been wealthy but which suffered serious reverses on account of the French Revolution. His father was director of the finances of his native province and the family resided in a wing of the Palace of the Parliament.

As a youth, Brute enjoyed the advantages of the best schools in the country. After finishing at the College of Rennes with all the honors, he entered the medical school of the University of Paris. Three years later he graduated from this famous institution at the head of a class of 1100 students. His proficiency in the science of medicine attracted the notice of Napoleon who tendered him an appointment as a physician to the First Dispensary in Paris shortly after his twenty-third birthday. Much to the disappointment of his friends who foresaw for him a brilliant career as a physician, he declined the appoint-

ment and announced that he had concluded to minister to the souls of men, rather than to their bodies. Accordingly, he forthwith entered the seminary to prepare for the priesthood.

A year later he enjoyed a rare privilege which afforded him a happy and lasting memory. The Holy Father, Pius VII, came to Paris for the coronation of Bonaparte and, during his stay there, granted the young student a private audience. Brute was ordained a priest on June 10, 1808. Again, Napoleon sought to confer honors upon him by offering him an appointment to the Imperial Chapel. Again, he declined and, instead, accepted the post of professor of theology in the diocesan seminary of his native town. While serving in that capacity he met Father Benedict J. Flaget, who had served for a time as the village priest at far away Post Vincennes on the Wabash and who had recently been designated as the first Bishop of Bardstown, Kentucky. A strong friendship grew up between the two and Father Brute concluded to accompany the newly appointed Bishop to America.



*Lincoln Memorial Bridge, Old Cathedral and Clark Memorial  
as Seen from the Wabash River*

Father Brute arrived at Baltimore in August, 1810, after a voyage of two months. Soon afterwards, he accepted the chair of philosophy at St. Mary's Seminary, the parent foundation of the Sulpician Fathers in the United States. From 1815 to 1818 he was president of St. Mary's College at Baltimore.

On May 6, 1834, the reigning Pontiff, Gregory XVI, issued a papal bull creating the Diocese of Vincennes and appointing Father Simon W. Gabriel Brute de Remur as the first Bishop of the new See. The bishop-elect was consecrated at St. Louis and arrived at Vincennes on November 5th, of the same year. The Diocese comprised the whole of the State of Indiana and the eastern part of Illinois, including the "village of Chicago."

What a perplexing problem his new responsibilities must have presented to Bishop Brute! From the cloistered atmosphere of the seminary and the college, where he had taught philosophy and theology and enjoyed the constant companionship of his books, he found himself literally transplanted to a rough western outpost. The church at Vincennes had been unable to adequately support a parish priest, much less a Bishop. The cathedral was unplastered and far from finished. The Bishop's palace resembled a peasant's cottage of two modest rooms.

The zealous Bishop, eager to accomplish every possible good, began work immediately. He completed the cathedral, taking an especial interest in designing its stately steeple. He traveled about the Diocese, directing and encouraging his scattered priests and their struggling congregations. In 1835, he returned to France for the purpose



*Lincoln Memorial Bridge, Marking the Place Where the Great Emancipator Crossed the Wabash on His Migration to Illinois in 1830*

of procuring young priests to aid him in his work. Among those whom he brought back with him were two that were destined to become his successors, Father Celestin de la Hailandiere and Father Maurice de St. Palais.

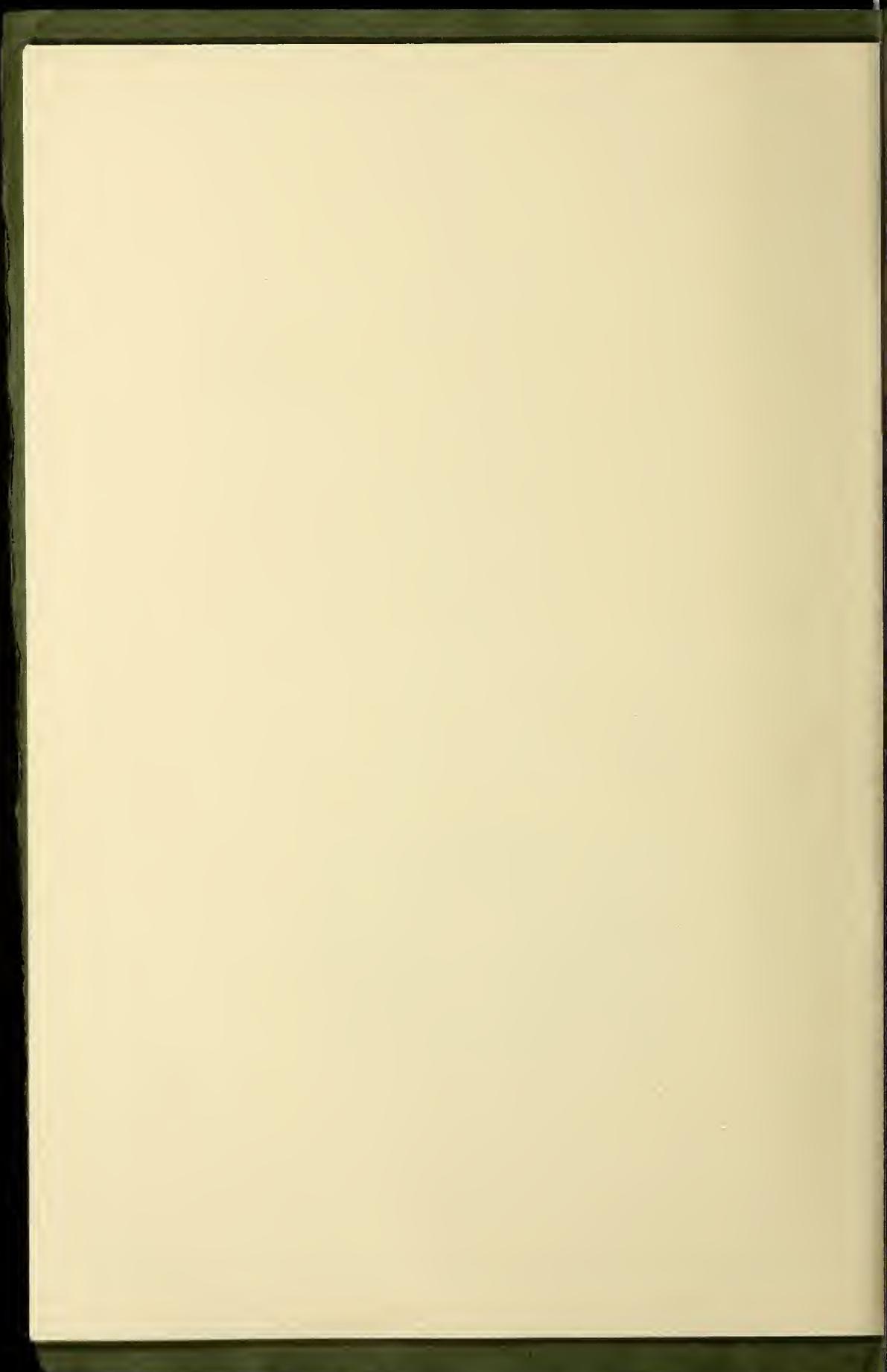
Bishop Brute left an indelible imprint not only upon the community where he had his residence but upon the entire Diocese as well. His profound wisdom and keen interest in the cause of education were noteworthy. Amid the arduous duties of his high office he found time to enjoy his precious books. His library was not only extensive in the number of its volumes but also comprehensive in the languages and subjects embraced. This magnificent collection is preserved intact in an appropriate building on the Cathedral grounds at Vincennes. Students of civil and ecclesiastical history have found it a rich mine of information. It is open to the public and is annually visited by thousands of tourists.

The first Bishop of Vincennes died at his rectory on June 26, 1839. The sense of loss to the community was profound. No citizen of the Old Post ever enjoyed such universal respect and esteem. There persists to this day a tradition that illustrates the cordial relationship that existed between him and his fellow townsmen. One day the beloved Bishop, wet and muddy from a tiresome journey, alighted from his horse in front of a store on the main street of the village. Entering, he went directly to the proprietor and, tossing a bag of gold on the counter before him said: "Will you keep this for me, Adam, until I have need for it?" As the Bishop started to leave the merchant called to him, "Wait, my good man, will you not count your money before you intrust it to me?" "No," replied the Bishop, "you may attend to that; besides, there is always more when you count it alone." The storekeeper was none other than Adam Gimbel, father of the Gimbel brothers who became the famous merchant princes of Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and New York.

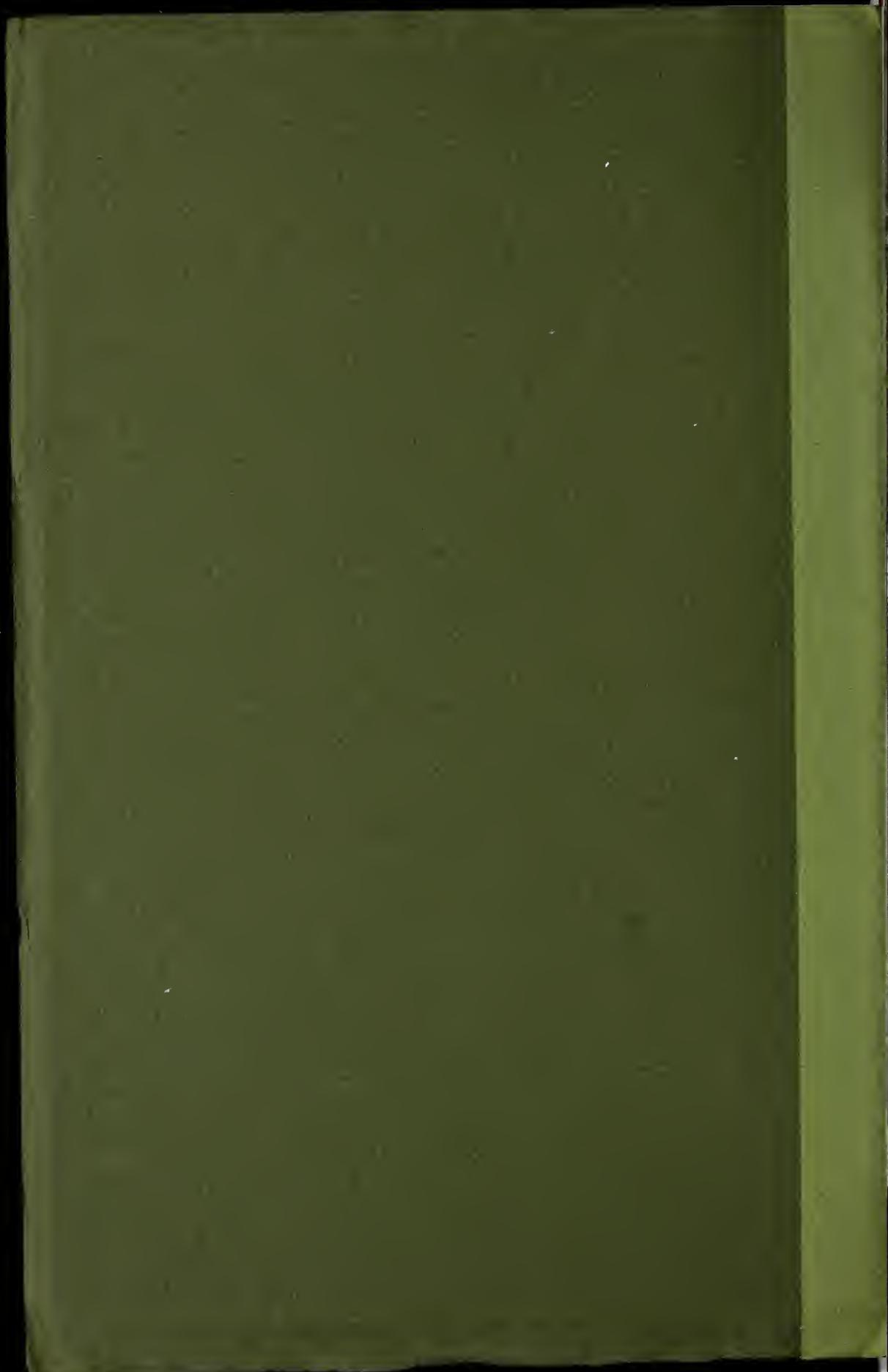


*The Old Cathedral in 1836*  
from a Pen Sketch by Bishop Brute

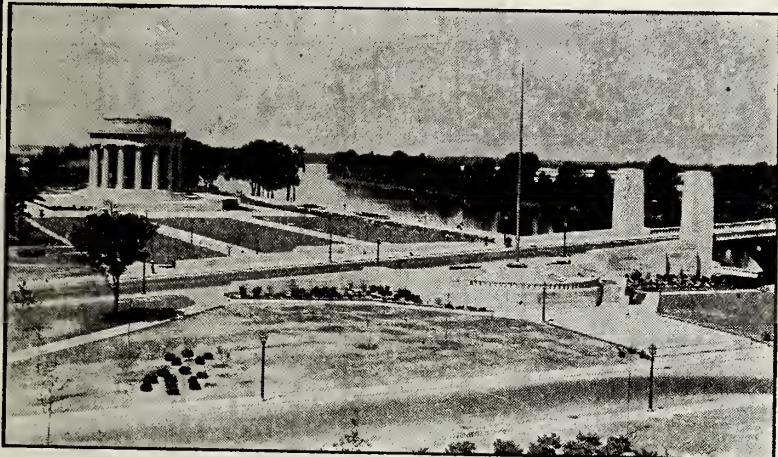








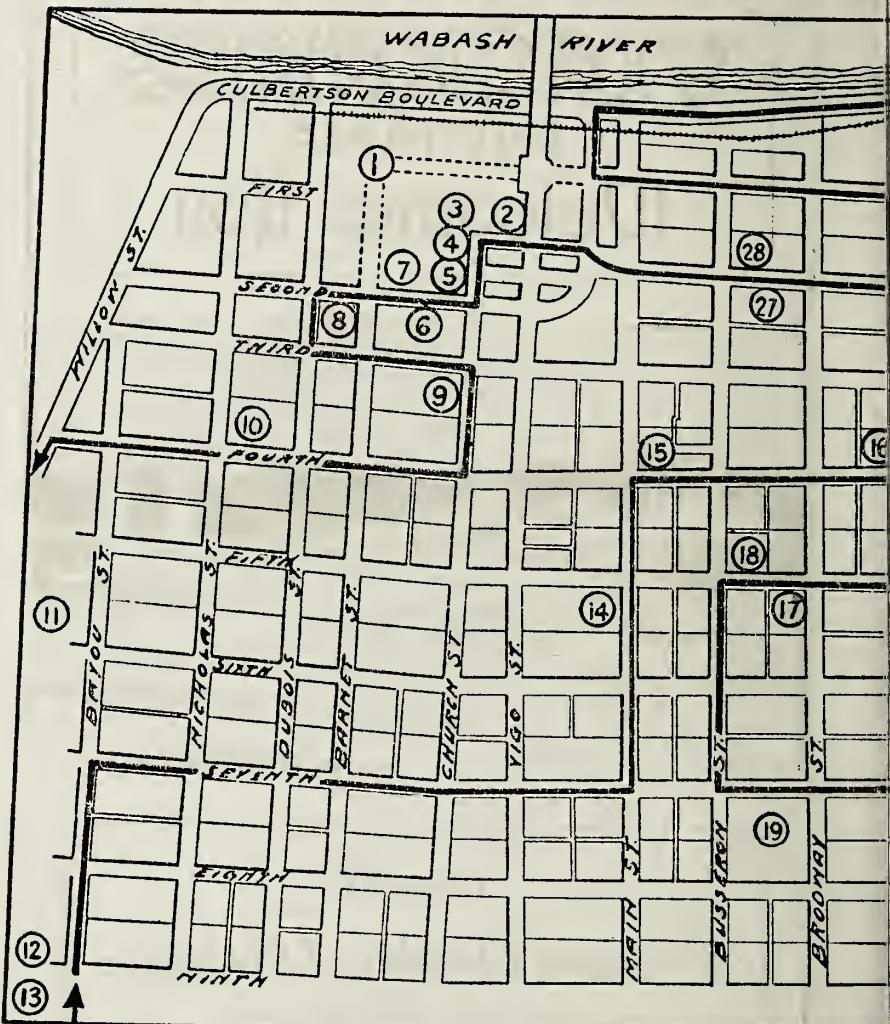
VINCENNES  
INDIANA  
Welcomes You



*Courtesy of*

*Vincennes Chamber of Commerce*

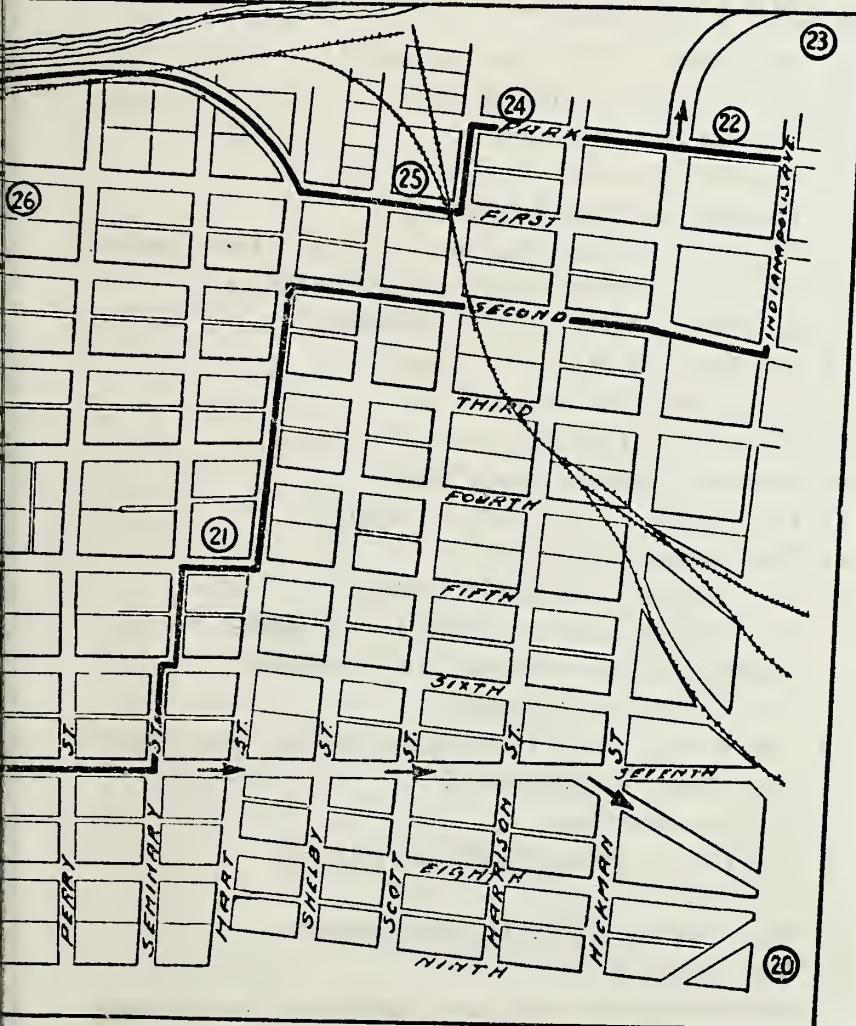
# VINCENNES—Citade



For Further Information—Vincennes Chamber of Commerce

HOUGHTON & GREEN

# of The Old Northwest



of Commerce, City Hall, Vincennes, Ind.

VINCENNES, IND.

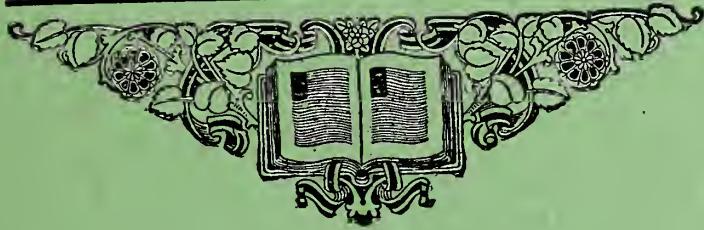
## *Places of Historical Interest in Old Vincennes—*

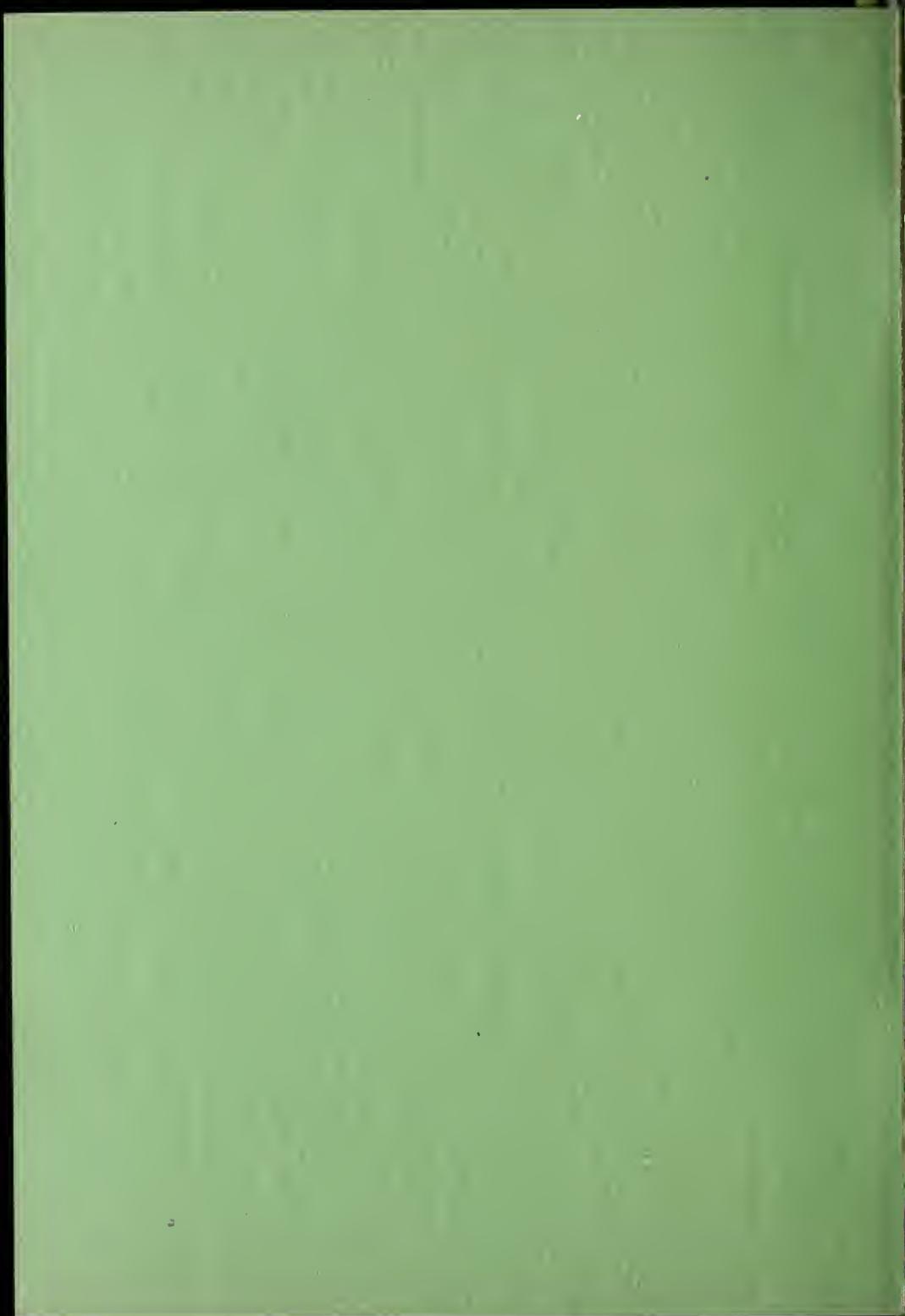
1. The George Rogers Clark Memorial.
2. The Lincoln Memorial Bridge.
3. The Old French Cemetery.
4. The Old Cathedral.
5. The Old Cathedral Library.
6. Chapel, College of Vincennes and St. Clare's Convent.
7. Site where meals furnished Clark's soldiers.
8. Site-Home of Alice of Old Vincennes.
9. Site-Home of Madame Godare.
10. An original Old French House.
11. Route of Clark's Advance on Vincennes.
12. Grave of Colonel Francis Vigo.
13. Grave of Gen. Washington Johnson.
14. The Bonner-Allen Mansion.
15. The Old Post Museum of History.
16. Niblack Res., now American Legion Home.
17. Home of Vincennes Lodge No. 1 Masonic.
18. The Vincennes University.
19. The Knox County Courthouse-Soldiers' Monument.
20. Sugar Loaf Indian Mound.
21. St. Rose Academy.
22. The First Capitol of Indiana Territory.
23. Fort Knox.
24. The William Henry Harrison Mansion.
25. The Treaty Tree.
26. Where the First newspaper in Indiana was printed.
27. The Old Ellis Mansion—Now the Harmony Club.
28. Site of the Home of Colonel Francis Vigo.

PRICE 25 CENTS

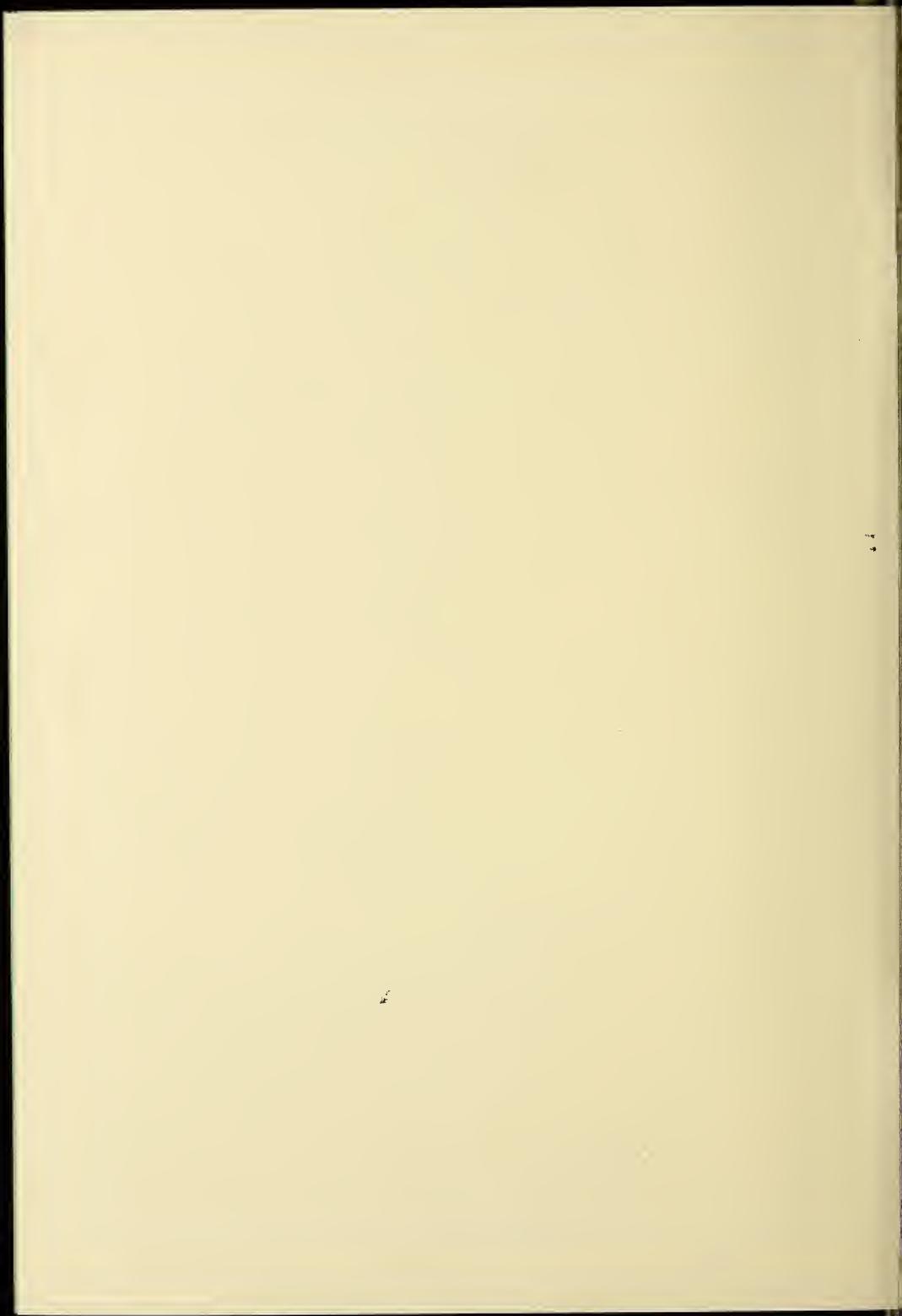
THE  
FIRST CAPITOL  
OF  
INDIANA TERRITORY  
AND OF  
THE  
DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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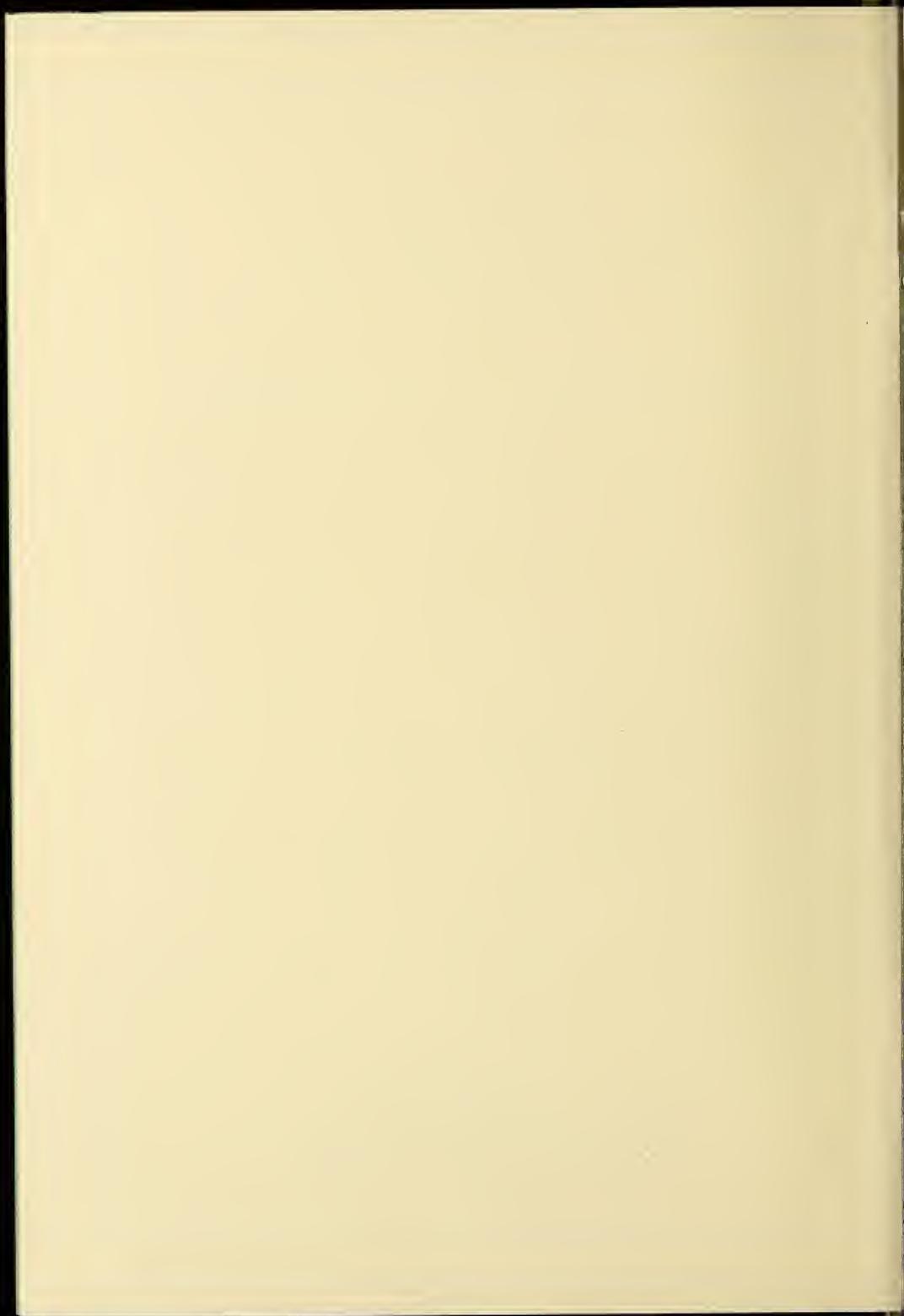
*The FIRST CAPITOL of*  
**INDIANA TERRITORY**  
(1800-1813)

AND OF

**THE DISTRICT of LOUISIANA**  
(1804-1805)

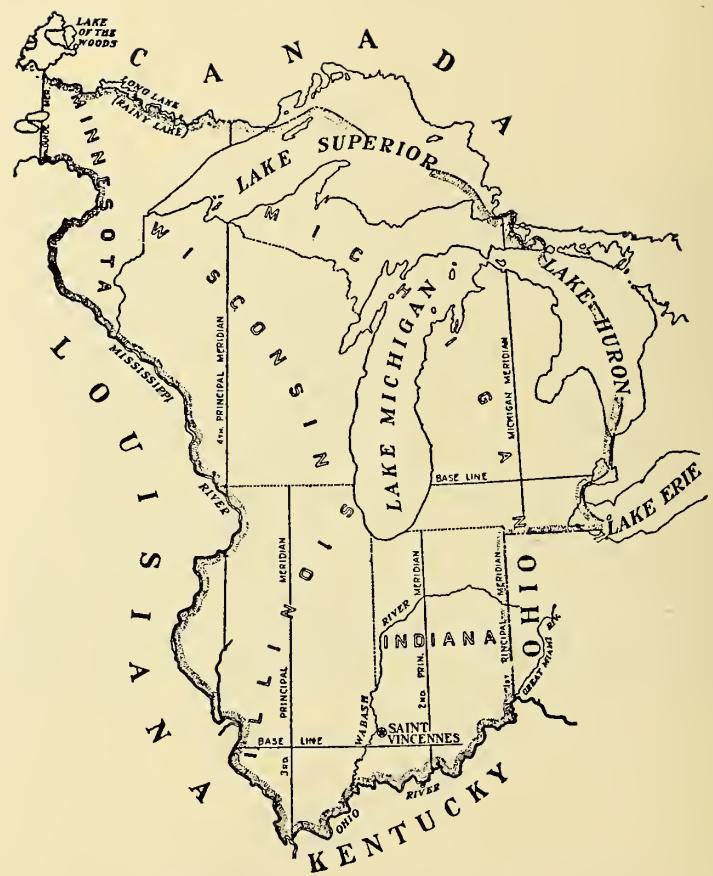
By CURTIS G. SHAKE

Published by  
*The Territorial Hall Committee*  
**VINCENNES FORTNIGHTLY CLUB**  
Vincennes, Indiana  
1934





THE OLD TERRITORIAL CAPITOL AT VINCENNES



INDIANA TERRITORY 1803-1805

## As History Tells Us

**S**URROUNDED by a magnificent grove of native trees in Harrison Park at old Vincennes stands the first capitol of Indiana Territory. Its simple lines, stoop porch, small paned windows, and solid green shutters suggest a bit of colonial New England transplanted, as it were, to the banks of the Wabash. The uninformed visitor would never suspect that more than a century and a quarter ago this plain structure was one of the most important public buildings in America and that its historical associations entitle it to be regarded as a national shrine. For a proper



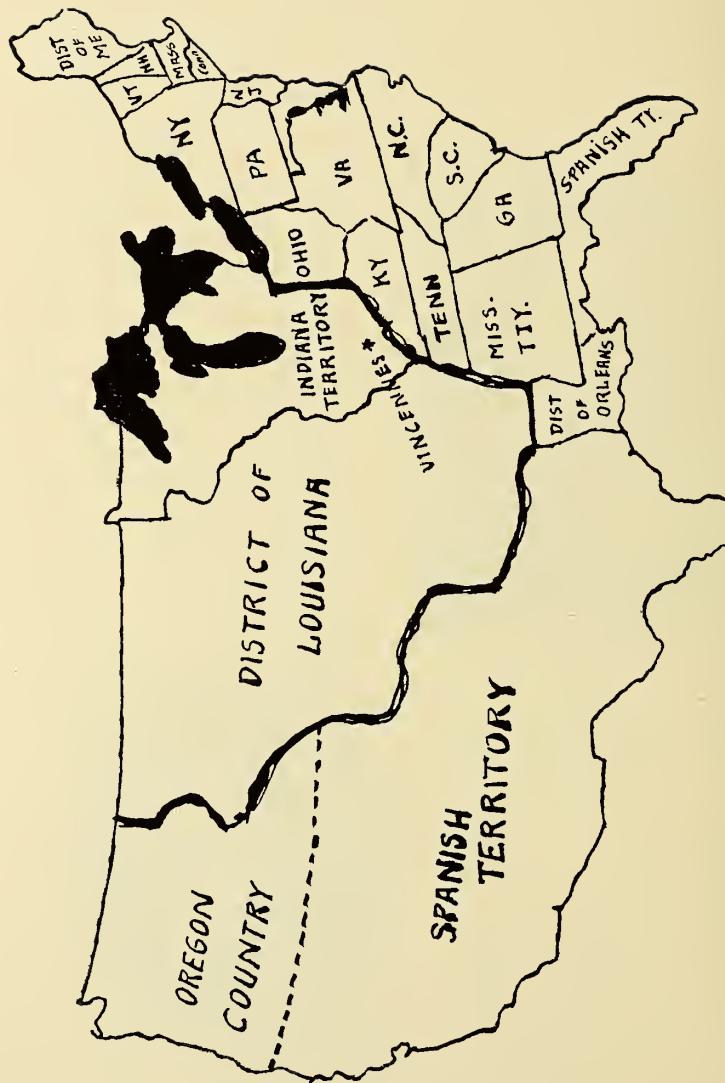
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON as he appeared while Governor of Indiana Territory; from a painting made in Vincennes in 1805; artist unknown.

appreciation of the real significance of this old building one must have in mind the outstanding facts pertaining to the territorial development of the United States.

Every school child knows the thrilling story of the conquest of the west by Col. George



GENERAL THOMAS POSEY  
Second and last Governor of  
Indiana Territory



THE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA. 1804-1805



ROOM IN WHICH THE TERRITORIAL  
LEGISLATURE MET

Rogers Clark, during the dark days of the war of the Revolution. Out of the broad expanse that he won for the cause of our independence was formed the territory northwest of the River Ohio, governed under the famous Ordinance of 1787 for thirteen years. In 1800 occurred the first step in the division of the old Northwest, preparatory to its ultimate assimilation into the union of the states. A line was run north and south approximating that which now separates Indiana and Ohio. The part to the east of this line retained the name of the Northwest Territory until 1803 when it was admitted into the union as the state of Ohio; that to the west, comprising the present states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, was designated as Indiana Territory with Vincennes as the capital.

President John Adams appointed a young man twenty-seven years of age by the name of William Henry Harrison as the first Governor of Indiana Territory and gave him a Secretary and three judges to assist him in establishing and maintaining a government at Vincennes. The task was not a simple one. The white inhabitants were few and scattered. Vincennes, Detroit and Kaskaskia were the principal settlements. The site of Chicago was yet a barren waste on the shores of Lake Michigan. Hostile Indian tribes held undisputed dominion over most of the territory. In addition to being the civil governor, Harrison was ex-officio Superintendent of Indian Affairs. It was his problem to extinguish the savage titles to this vast region, convert the primitive trails into roads for covered wagons and make the territory safe for white settlers from the east and south.

The young Governor was well prepared for his heavy responsibilities. His father was Benjamin Harrison, three times Governor of Virginia, a President of the Continental Congress and a Signer of the Declaration of Independence. He had been educated at Hampden-Sidney College, served for a time in the



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF INDIANA  
TERRITORY

regular army under Mad Anthony Wayne, had been Secretary of the old Northwest Territory, and was, at the time of his appointment, a delegate in Congress.

Full of enthusiasm for the work that lay ahead of him, and which forty years later was to lead him to the presidency of the republic, young Harrison proceeded to Vincennes. Here he built for himself a fine home which he called "Grouseland," but which well deserves to be known as the "White House of the West." Here he gathered about himself his loyal associates and established a civil government in the little two-roomed frame house that was to be the capitol of Indiana Territory for thirteen eventful years. The offices of the Governor and the Secretary were maintained on the first floor. The judges, and later the territorial assembly, met up stairs.

Hardly had Harrison gotten adjusted to his task than were his responsibilities immeasurably increased. In 1803 President Jefferson purchased from France the Louisiana Territory for the sum of \$15,000,000. Congress was confronted with the immediate necessity of providing for the government of this great addition to the national domain. It was accomplished in the easiest and simplest manner. The District of Louisiana was attached to Indiana Territory for governmental purposes. And so the old territorial hall at Vincennes found itself for a time (1804-1805) the capitol of all that vast expanse extending from Ohio to the Rocky Mountains and from Canada to Louisiana. As one stands in the yard of this old building and looks at the rough hewn timbers and clap-board roof it is hard to realize that out of this humble structure once went forth the official orders and edicts that was the law of the land as far away as Arkansas, Montana and the Dakotas. It can be said with historical accuracy that no other building in America has been the governing place of



TABLE MADE FOR AND USED BY THE GOVERNOR  
AND JUDGES OF INDIANA TERRITORY AND OF  
THE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

so vast a territory, with the single exception of the national capitol at Washington.

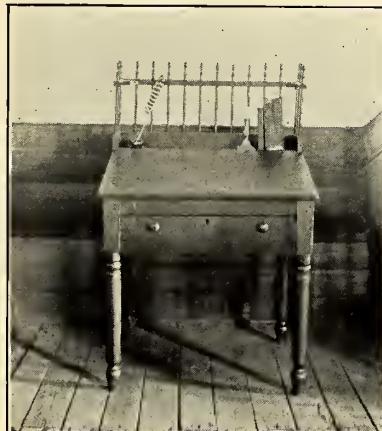
This old building at Vincennes was something more than a capitol: it was the laboratory, the federal experiment station, where were worked out and perfected the territorial policies that were to be followed until the last foot of continental America was absorbed into the union of the states. Even today, in far away Alaska, in Hawaii, and in Porto Rico our government is making practical use of the lessons learned at old Vincennes as to the most efficient method of administering territorial possessions.

One of the most perplexing problems that vexed the government at Vincennes was the question as to whether or not human slavery should be admitted into Indiana Territory. True, the Ordinance of 1787 prohibited slavery, but the ordinance was nothing more than an enactment of Congress and it might have been modified or repealed at any time. At almost every early session of the territorial legislature an effort was made to have that body petition Congress to repeal the anti-slavery proviso. These controversies were extremely spirited and bitter. Finally, in 1809 the issue was settled and it was definitely decided that Indiana Territory should remain free soil. It is interesting to conjecture what might have been the course of subsequent events had the territorial legislature, which met on the second floor of the old capitol building, decided otherwise, and had Congress opened the territory to the slave trade. Would there have been a Civil War? And if, as Lincoln afterwards said, "war was inevitable," what would have been the outcome had the resources and man-power of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin been thrown on the side of the Southern Confederacy?

Many interesting characters crossed the threshold of the old capitol during the period that it served

as the seat of government. Couriers brought important messages on horsesback from high officials at Washington. Haughty Indian chieftains complained of the encroachment of white settlers upon their sacred hunting grounds. Aaron Burr sought, unsuccessfully, to embroil Harrison in his traitorous scheme to set up a rival nation in the Mississippi valley. These are but a few of the men, many good and some bad, who came and went.

William Henry Harrison while Governor of Indiana Territory did much more than administer its civil affairs and crush the Indian Confederacy under the leadership of the intrepid Tecumseh. He foresaw that if this wilderness was ever to become a useful part of the United States something more would be required than laws and safety from Indian depredations. He therefore set about to lay the foundations for the cultural development of the territory. He aided the establishment of the Indiana Gazette, the first newspaper in the territory. Vincennes University, its first institution of higher learning, was organized in his office and with him as the first president of the board of trustees. He was the moving spirit in the establishment of the first public library. He organized an historical society, and about the same time promoted an organization for the encouragement of agriculture and the useful arts. He aided every church in the community, protestant and Catholic alike.



OFFICE DESK USED BY GEN.  
JOHN GIBSON, SECRETARY OF  
INDIANA TERRITORY

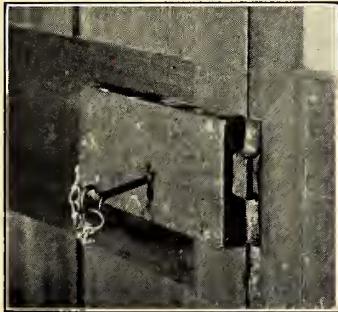
The old territorial capitol was saved from destruction in 1919 through the efforts of the women of the Vincennes Fortnightly Club. Funds for its purchase and removal to its present location were raised by popular subscription. Title was vested in the City of Vincennes but the old building stood in a sadly neglected condition until 1933 when, through the united efforts of the Fortnightly Club and the park department of the city, it was faithfully restored to its original condition and appearance.

This old building is not a museum. There are no display cabinets containing relics or curios. When one enters the governor's office there is at once a feeling that the official occupant of the long ago is only temporarily absent—called to Grouseland, perhaps, by its charming mistress on account of some domestic care incident to a large family. The Governor's desk, equipped with candles and quill pens, is surrounded by a group of well-worn hickory chairs. At the other end of the room stands the original desk of General John Gibson, the secretary of the Territory. On this identical piece of furniture were penned important Indian treaties, reports to the government at Washington and other official documents. The heavy hewn timbers, the generous fireplace and the plain whitewashed walls all seem to tell the story of the development of a great nation from a very modest beginning, more eloquently and effectively than the spoken word or the printed page.

Mounting the narrow stairway one comes at once to the legislative hall proper. Here, for the first five years the Governor and judges met and made laws for the territory. Here, later, the territorial legislatures held their stormy sessions. The original odd-shaped walnut table used by the Governor and judges was rescued from a dusty attie and once again occupies its proper place to complete the picture. Upon it was signed the first code of laws for

the District of Louisiana, as well as that for Indiana Territory. The crude candle lanterns that supplied flickering lights for the long night sessions have been replaced with others of the same period. The hard benches, provided for the accommodation of the members of the assembly, are empty—mute reminders of pioneer lawmakers, long since gathered to their fathers.

No man or woman, no boy or girl, can visit and study the old Capitol of Indiana Territory and of the District of Louisiana at Vincennes without gaining a better understanding and a deeper appreciation of the great moving forces that have made America the great nation that it is.



LOCK ON THE DOOR OF  
THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

OFFICIALS WHO SERVED IN THE OLD  
TERRITORIAL CAPITOL AT VINCENNES

(1800—1813)

GOVERNORS

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

THOMAS POSEY

SECRETARY

JOHN GIBSON

JUDGES

WILLIAM CLARKE

JOHN GRIFFIN

HENRY VANDERBURG

THOMAS TERRY DAVIS

WALLER TAYLOR

BENJAMIN PARKE

JAMES FISKE

JAMES SCOTT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS

JOHN HAY, St. Clair Co.  
SHADRACH BOND, JR.,  
St. Clair Co.

SHADRACH BOND, "SR.",  
St. Clair Co.

PIERRE MENARD, Randolph Co.

GEORGE FISHER, Randolph Co.

JOHN RICE JONES, Knox Co.

WILLIAM PRINCE, Knox Co.

LUKE DECKER, Knox Co.

WILLIAM JONES, Knox Co.

WALTER WILSON, Knox Co.

SAMUEL GWATHMEY, Clark Co.

THOMAS DOWNS, Clark Co.

JAMES BEGGS, Clark Co.

BENJAMIN CHAMBERS,

SOLOMON MANWARING,  
Dearborn Co.

Dearborn Co.

HARVEY HETH, Harrison Co.

JOHN HARBISON, Harrison Co.

REPRESENTATIVES

SHADRACH BOND, "SR.",  
St. Clair Co.

WILLIAM BIGGS, St. Clair Co.  
JOHN MESSINGER, St. Clair Co.

SHADRACH BOND, "JR.",  
St. Clair Co.

RICE JONES, Randolph Co.  
BENJAMIN PARKE, Knox Co.

GEORGE FISHER, Randolph Co.  
JOHN JOHNSON, Knox Co.

GENERAL WASHINGTON JOHN-  
STON, Knox Co.

LUKE DECKER, Knox Co.

PETER JONES, Knox Co.

JOHN HADDEN, Knox Co.

DANIEL McCLURE, Knox Co.

DAVID ROBE, Knox Co.

DAVIS FLOYD, Clark Co.

ROBERT EVANS, Knox Co.

JOHN WORK, Clark Co.

JAMES BEGGS, Clark Co.

THOMAS DOWNS, Clark Co.

JOHN PAUL, Clark Co.

JESSE B. THOMAS, Dearborn Co.

JAMES SCOTT, Clark Co.

EPHRAIM OVERMAN, Dearborn

RICHARD RUE, Dearborn Co.

Co.

JOHN TEMPLETON, Dearborn Co. JAMES DILL, Dearborn Co.

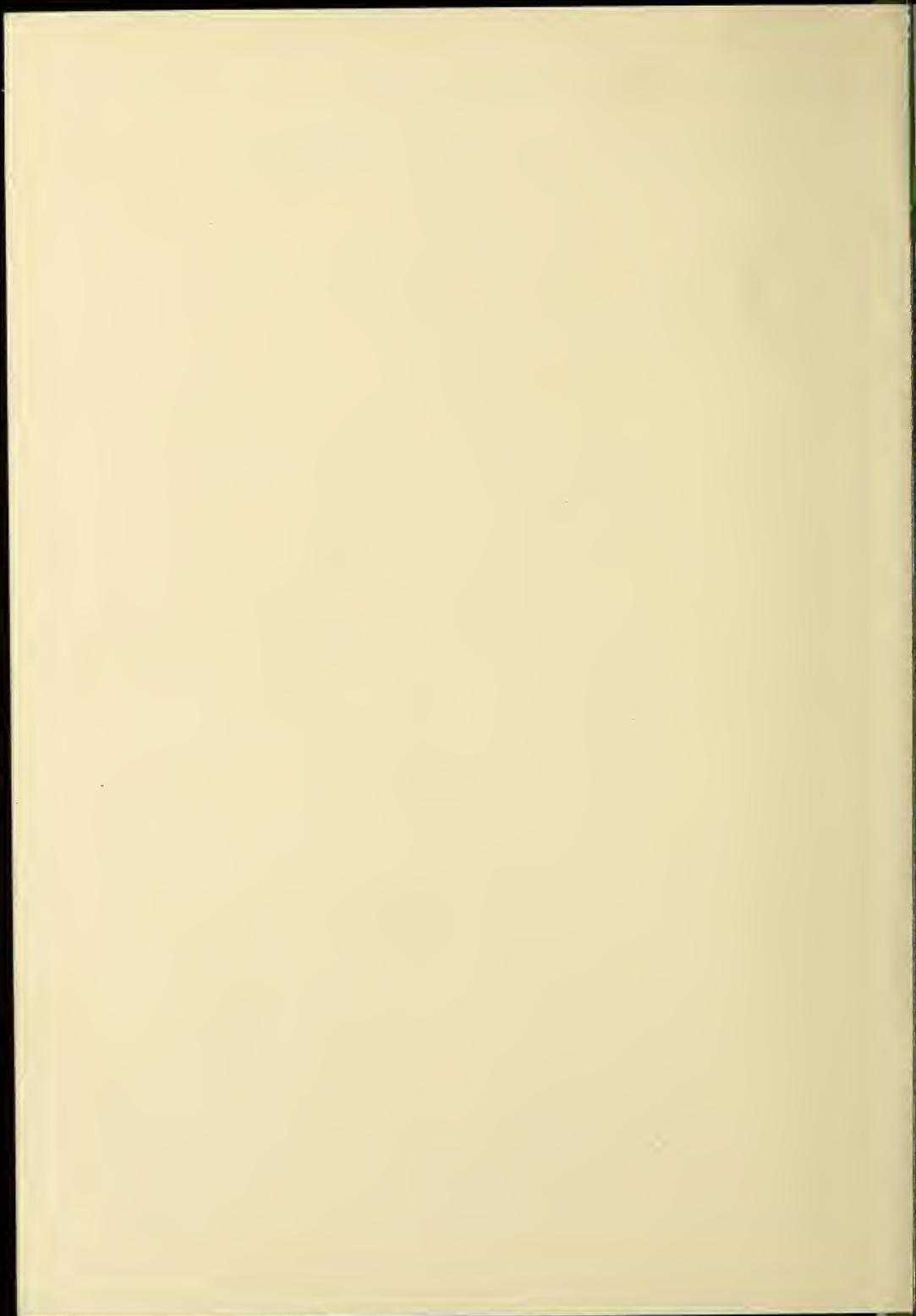
MOSES HOGATT, Harrison Co. DENNIS PENNINGTON,

WILLIAM McFARLAND, Jefferson Harrison Co.

JAMES NOBLE, Franklin Co.

JAMES BROWN, Wayne Co.

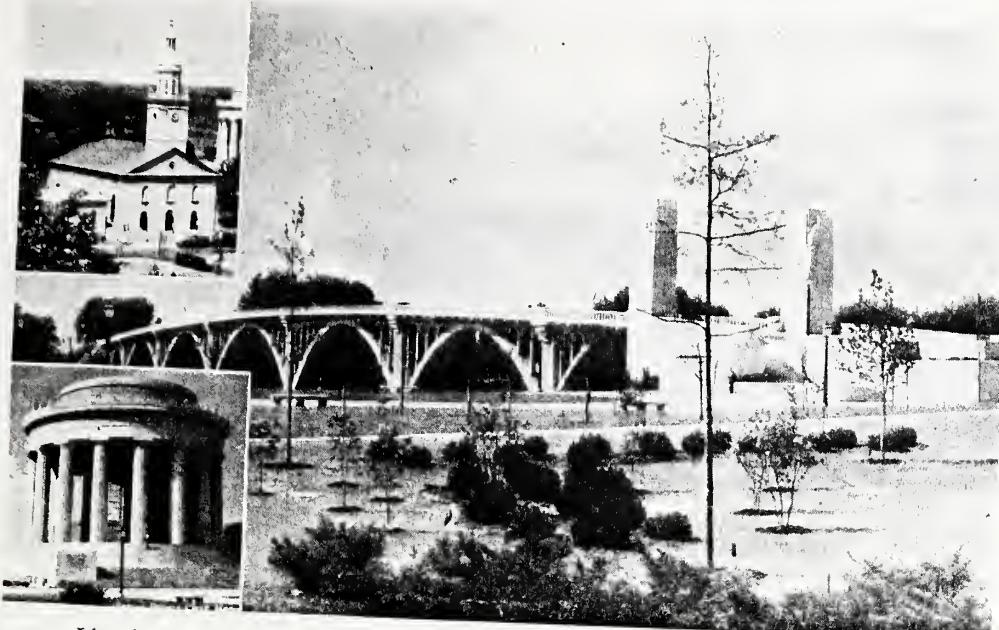






PRICE 25 CENTS

# Record Mail Bag



*Lincoln Memorial Bridge; The Old Cathedral & George Rogers Clark Memorial.*

## IN OLD VINCENNES

### Interesting Pictures and Data Concerning Historic Indiana City

Editor Mueller Record: "Enclosed find some views of our old historical city, that we thought might be of interest to you.

On Indiana soil at Vincennes, formerly called the Capital of the Northwest Territory, and one of the oldest cities west of the Allegheny Mountains, is being erected the George Rogers Clark Memorial.

#### Overcame Terrible Obstacles

Clark, after a terrible march from Kaskaskia through flooded and freezing rivers, captured Fort Sackville, thus obtaining the northwest territory. This is the most outstanding event of the American Revolution. This memorial is erected on the exact spot where Clark captured the Fort. It is made of Vermont gray granite, with interior trimmed in Indiana limestone. Paintings of Clark's Campaign adorn the walls, and a bronze statue one and a half life size stands in the center.

#### Lincoln Memorial Bridge

The memorial grounds extend to the approach of the new Lincoln Memorial Bridge. This bridge, erected in honor of Abraham Lincoln, crosses the Wabash river where

Lincoln crossed on his journey from Indiana to Springfield, Illinois. It is built along lines fitting to the Clark Memorial.

#### Old Cathedral

Adjacent to the Memorial grounds, is the Old Cathedral, standing at the time the Lincoln family crossed the Wabash river over 100 years ago. Vincennes has many other historical points of interest.

We extend to Mueller Company and all who enjoy Mueller Record as much as we, a hearty invitation to visit our interesting old city."

Very truly yours,

Clyde L. Holmes.

MAY, 1935



# THE *Lincoln Country* OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

IN THE autumn of 1816, Thomas Lincoln, Abraham's father, sold his little farm in Kentucky, crossed the Ohio River and settled about eighteen miles north of Rockport, near Gentryville, Indiana. There were four in his family: himself; Nancy Hanks; a daughter Sarah, aged nine; and Abe, seven. After clearing a small "patch," the green logs thus felled were used to construct a three-walled cabin. This temporary shelter was replaced by a slightly larger one-room cabin, having four walls, a door and a stone chimney; and here the future President lived until he emigrated, with his father, to Illinois in 1830.

That part of Indiana was then a wilderness. Towns were few and communications difficult. Life was extremely rigorous. In less than two years Nancy Hanks Lincoln, never of strong constitution, contracted a fever and died at the age of thirty-five. In the presence of the family and a few neighbors, in a coffin made of rough planks which were hand-sawn from logs by Thomas Lincoln himself, and without attendance of a minister or religious rite, her body was carried to the top of a low hill, a few hundred yards south of the cabin, and buried in an unmarked grave.

Months afterward, Abraham, who had learned to write, sent a letter to a Reverend David Elkin in Kentucky and asked that he come to preach a funeral sermon for his mother. In spite of the difficulties of the journey, this circuit-riding preacher made the trip of nearly a hundred miles and preached a sermon at Nancy Hanks' grave. It was quite an event. Tradition says that many families came from miles around; not, perhaps, because so many desired to pay respect to this almost unknown mother, but there were few preachers and few sermons in this country, and the story of little Abe's unusual request had been told far and wide.

Despite the hardships of poverty, the youthful Lincoln lived a normal life and found much of interest about him. The monotonous labors of a pioneer "patch" farmer were broken by trips to the mill, log-rollings, a few months of the three R's in a distant country school, Sunday

*(concluded on page 191)*



WHERE A STRONG SPIRIT, NURTURED IN INDIANA, CROSSED THE WABASH RIVER AT VINCENNES ON THE WESTWARD MARCH, THERE IS THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL BRIDGE. THERE LINCOLN LEFT THE COUNTRY OF HIS YOUTH, CALLED THE LINCOLN COUNTRY TODAY. THE GRAVES OF NANCY HANKS LINCOLN AND OF SISTER SARAH ARE IN NANCY HANKS STATE PARK



## LINCOLN COUNTRY

*(Concluded from page 181)*

afternoon gatherings with their rounds of rough and tumble sports and an occasional visit to the county seat. Abe, as he is still called in the many stories which abound in this country, took part in all these; but was distinguished by his eager desire for wider knowledge. He tramped miles of trails to borrow and return books; often walked to Boonville, the county seat, twenty miles distant, to attend sessions of court and hear lawyers' arguments. His first discovery of the world, beyond the limits of such activities, came when he embarked on a flatboat at Rockport for a trip down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in 1828. Two years later, at the age of twenty-one, following the call of the advancing frontier, he struck northward, crossed the Wabash at Vincennes, using the ford which was a buffalo trace used by the Indians long before the day of the explorers, and settled near the Sangamon River in New Salem, Illinois.

INDIANA, as a state, and the citizens of the southwestern part, through many organizations, have succeeded in making the Lincoln country easily accessible. The Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Park, which surrounds the tomb, the restored cabin site and the old churchyard where Sarah Lincoln Grigsby is buried, lies but a few miles off National Road 50, east-west, and Road 41, north-south, and may be reached from any point over excellent paved highways. The Boonville Press Club's annual memorial, held on the second Sunday of July, brings thousands from many states.

At the fourteenth annual service on July 11 of this year, pilgrims from many distant points gathered. The band opened the program with the familiar strains of "Nearer My God to Thee." The Honorable William Carleton of Boonville delivered a brief enology. An original memorial poem by Keith Canan was read, and wreaths were placed by the American War Mothers and the Press Club. A bugler stepped to the grave and sounded taps.



# What To See In Old Vincennes

For further information address Chamber of Commerce, or Old Post Association.  
Vincennes, Indiana.

INCENNES, INDIANA, is one of the most interesting places in America. The exact date of its settlement is unknown but as early as 1732 France fortified it against the encroachment of England into the upper Mississippi valley. The location was a strategic one. The Wabash river, with the Maumee to the north and the Ohio and Mississippi to the south, afforded a direct route between the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. At Vincennes, this highway of water was intersected by the Buffalo Trace which, with the Wilderness Road to the southeast and the Santa Fe and Oregon trails to the west, provided a primitive overland road from the Cumberlands to the Pacific. One historian has referred to early Vincennes as the "Metz of the Mississippi Valley." It was at the crossroads of the wilderness.

Following the fall of Quebec, Vincennes became a British possession

in 1763. It so remained until the American Revolution. In the darkest period of that war George Rogers Clark, a young Virginian twenty-seven years of age, conceived the daring idea of striking at the British strongholds at Kaskaskia, Vincennes and, perhaps, Detroit. With pitifully inadequate resources of supplies and men he took Kaskaskia without resistance, and then, in the dead of winter, plunged into the icy waters and proceeded against Vincennes. After a spirited engagement Fort Sackville, Vincennes stronghold, fell February 25, 1779, and with it fell also the power of England in the old northwest. The campaign against Detroit was abandoned for lack of reinforcements. Had Clark been adequately supplied the Stars and Stripes might today be floating over Canada as well.

The westward expansion of the United States beyond the Alleghenies and ultimately to the Pacific

was chiefly due to the far-sighted vision of George Rogers Clark.

With the first division of the old northwest in 1800 Vincennes was made the capital of Indiana Territory, comprising the present states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. William Henry Harrison, another young Virginian, likewise just twenty-seven years old, was made the first Governor. His task was to complete that which Clark had made possible. For thirteen eventful years he labored to free the territory of hostile Indians and to open it to permanent settlers. In due time all this was accomplished. Flat boats replaced Indian canoes and carried the products of fertile farms to the markets at New Orleans, and cumbersome covered wagons followed the old trails bearing sturdy pioneers to new homes beyond the Mississippi. Vincennes became the gateway to the West.

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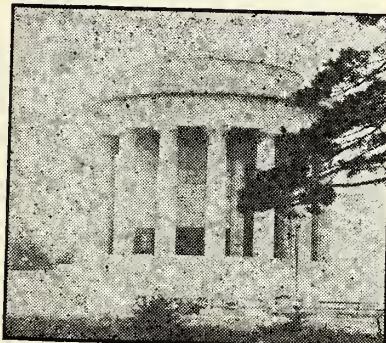
## —GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MEMORIAL—

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL at Vincennes commemorates the winning of the old Northwest and the achievements of George Rogers Clark and his associates in the war of the American Revolution.

As the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781 made certain the independence of the United States, the victory of Clark, at Vincennes, February 25, 1779, made certain the possession of the interior of the continent and the further continental expansion of the United States.

The old northwest, ceded in the Treaty of 1783, was the first and most important acquisition of territory ever made by the United States. It decided the Civil War; it gave nine presidents to the United States; it contains a fifth of the nation's population, nearly a fourth of its wealth, and three of its six largest cities.

It remained, however, for the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of



CLARK MEMORIAL

Clark's capture of Fort Sackville to bring recognition of its significance. Through the efforts of a few citizens of Vincennes and a committee of the Indiana Historical Society, the City of Vincennes and Knox County expended some \$250,000 for the purchase of part of the site of

Fort Sackville. To this, the state of Indiana has added more than \$650,000 and is acquiring title to the whole tract upon which the fort stood. The national government has already appropriated \$1,500,000 for the erection of the memorial.

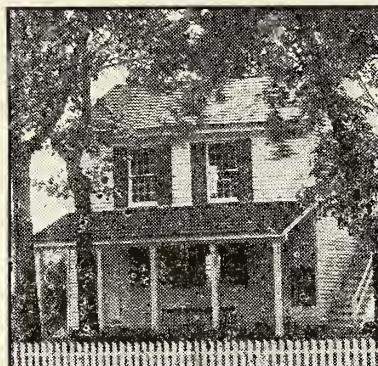
The memorial is a circular building of classical design, surrounded by pillars, approximately ninety feet in diameter and seventy feet high, standing on an extensive base on high ground where the fort stood. It is a commanding landmark and affords a beautiful view of the Wabash river.

Bennett, Parsons and Frost, of Chicago, are architects of the grounds. Frederic C. Hiron and F. W. Mellor, of New York, are architects of the building. Ezra Winter, of New York, is the painter of the seven large murals which adorn the interior of the building, and Herman A. MacNeil is the sculptor of the statuary. This constitutes the finest national memorial outside the federal capital.

## — FIRST CAPITOL OF INDIANA TERRITORY —

**S**URROUNDED by a grove of native trees in Harrison Park at old Vincennes stands the first capitol of Indiana Territory. Its simple lines, stoop porch, small panel windows, and solid green shutters suggest a bit of colonial New England transplanted, as it were, to the banks of the Wabash. The uninformed visitor would never suspect that more than a century and a quarter ago this simple structure was one of the most important public buildings in America and that its historical associations entitle it to be regarded as a national shrine.

In 1800 occurred the first step in the division of the Old Northwest, preparatory to its ultimate assimilation into the union of the states. A line was run north and south approximating that which separates Ohio and Indiana. That to the west of this line, comprising the states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, with a part of Minnesota, was designated as Indiana Territory, with Vincennes as the capital. In 1803 President Jefferson purchased from France the Louisi-



TERRITORIAL CAPITOL

ana Territory for \$15,000,000. Congress was thereby confronted with the immediate necessity of providing for the government of this great addition to the national domain. This was accomplished in the easiest and simplest manner. The District of Louisiana was attached to Indiana Territory for governmental purposes.

Of all this vast domain, extending from Ohio to the Rocky Moun-

tains and from Canada to Louisiana, this simple two-roomed building was the first capitol. It is difficult to realize that from this severely plain old structure went forth the orders and edicts that were the laws of the land as far away as Arkansas, Montana and the Dakotas. No other building in America has been the governing place of so vast a territory, with the single exception of the national capitol at Washington.

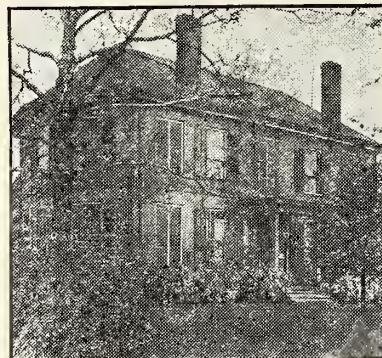
The old capitol has been restored and is maintained exactly as it was from 1800 while it was the seat of the territorial government. The office of the governor and secretary are on the first floor. The territorial judge and legislative assembly meet upstairs. Part of the original furnishings have been preserved through the years. Heat was supplied by generous fireplaces and candle lanterns provided flickering lights. When one enters the building there is the feeling that the official occupants of the long ago are only temporarily absent, so faithfully has the atmosphere of the place been preserved.

## — HOME OF WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON —

**P**ERHAPS the most valuable historic shrine in Indiana is the old colonial home built and occupied by William Henry Harrison while governor of Indiana Territory. This fine old mansion was much more than a residence. It was in every sense of the word the "White House of the West." Erected in 1804, it is said to have been the first brick building in Vincennes.

Grouseland originally occupied an estate of 300 acres along the Wabash immediately north of Vincennes. About the house stood a magnificent grove of native walnut trees. It was in this grove that General Harrison held his famous council with the Indian chief, Tecumseh, in 1811.

The Harrison house was preserved and is owned by the Francis Vigo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The property is maintained through a modest admission charge. The chapter is gradually restoring the house to its original appearance and refurnishing it in keeping with its period. Many fine specimens of colonial furniture, some of which belonged



GROUSELAND

to the Harrison family, may be found there.

Interesting features of the house are the council room where General Harrison conducted his business as Superintendent of Indian affairs, the secret stairway and traditional passageway to the river bank for escape in the event of Indian attacks, the powder magazine for storing ammunition, and the look-out

on top of the house. A hole in a shutter caused when an ambushed savage shot at General Harrison, is still pointed out. The general was caring for a sick child at the time. This child became the father of Benjamin Harrison, twenty-third president of the United States.

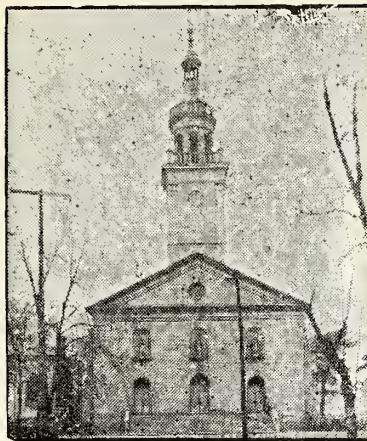
With all of these striking reminders of pioneer days, when hostile Indians were a constant threat, the Harrison house was, and is, a mansion in every sense of the word. The architecture is Georgian and the masonry and woodwork are of the finest materials and evidence of skill that is both interesting and refreshing.

William Henry Harrison sprang from one of the most prominent families of old Virginia. His father was three times governor of that state, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a president of the Continental Congress. Grouseland possesses the atmosphere and charm of Mount Vernon or Monticello and strikingly refutes the propaganda of the campaign of 1840 that Harrison was a backwoodsman of the log cabin and hard cider type.

## THE OLD CATHEDRAL

**A**MONG the very first white men to visit the Piankeshaw Indian village that occupied the site of Vincennes were the devoted missionaries of the Jesuit order of the Catholic church. These consecrated fathers were possessed of a burning zeal to bring Christianity to the members of the savage tribes. The first Catholic church at Vincennes was erected shortly after the settlement of the town. It was a rude structure of logs set perpendicularly in the ground, twenty by sixty feet in size and without windows. Heat was provided by an open fire on the earthen floor, the smoke escaping through a hole in the thatched roof. Rude puncheon benches were used by the worshippers.

This original church stood until removed for the present edifice in 1826. Within its dingy walls Father Pierre Gibault, the patriot priest of the old Northwest, administered to the French inhabitants of the Old Post the oath of allegiance to the cause of American liberty. Before its door Gen. Henry Hamilton surrendered Fort Sackville to Colonel



OLD CATHEDRAL

George Rogers Clark on February 25, 1779.

The present church, now more than a century old, was regarded as the finest building in the state at the time of completion. Its construction called for many sacrifices

on the part of the loyal members of the parish. The large columns which support the roof are native trees, brought to Vincennes by rafts on the Wabash. Funds for completing the structure were accumulated by the shipment of grain and supplies to New Orleans by flat boats. This was done under the personal direction of the village priest.

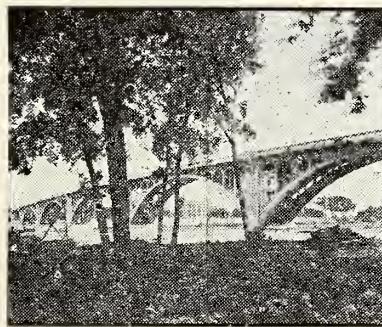
The church was ten years in the building.

In 1834 the Diocese of Vincennes was created and this old church was raised to the dignity of a Cathedral. Father Simon Gabriel Brute was consecrated as the first bishop. He and his three immediate successors are buried in the crypt beneath the altar. In the tall slender spire of the Old Cathedral still hangs the small bell that announced to the inhabitants of Vincennes the surrender of England's army to the American forces during the Revolution. It is, indeed, the Liberty Bell of the Old Northwest, second in importance only to that other bell at Philadelphia that proclaimed "liberty throughout the world and unto all the inhabitants thereof."

## LINCOLN MEMORIAL BRIDGE

**A**N INTIMATE association with the life of Abraham Lincoln is a matter of pride with any community. Vincennes is especially fortunate in that regard. Thomas Lincoln, father of the great president, walked to Vincennes for the purpose of entering a farm in Spencer county prior to the family's removal from Kentucky to Indiana in 1816. He came again in 1827 when he completed his payments and received a land grant for the eighty acre tract which is now a part of the memorial park at Lincoln City, Indiana.

In 1830 the Lincoln family migrated from southern Indiana to Macon county, Illinois. The route followed brought them through Vincennes. This afforded young Abraham, then in his twenty-first year, an opportunity toward which he had long looked forward. For some time he had been a regular reader of *The Western Sun*, Vincennes' pioneer newspaper, and had gleaned from its columns much valuable information concerning men and measures. But he had never seen a printing press. Taking advantage, therefore, of his presence in Vincennes he found his way to the Sun office



LINCOLN MEMORIAL BRIDGE

where he was greatly impressed to observe at first hand the processes by which the printed page was produced. A great artist has drawn a picture of this scene, depicting the tall ungainly youth standing beside the crude Washington hand press. This picture is entitled, "The First Meeting of the Two Great Emancipators." What mighty blows they were both destined to strike in the cause for human liberty!

During the years that followed Lincoln visited Vincennes on a num-

ber of occasions while riding the circuits as a practicing lawyer. In 1844 he delivered a campaign address on behalf of Henry Clay at Bruceville, a village eight miles northeast of Vincennes.

The states of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois are now cooperating to establish a great Lincoln Memorial Highway which will link together the birthplace at Hodgenville, Ky., the scene of his boyhood home, and his mother's grave at Lincoln City, Ind., and his residence and tomb at Springfield, Ill. All these places are now maintained as public shrines and this unique highway is destined to become one of national interest and importance.

The point where Lincoln crossed the Wabash river into Illinois in 1830 is marked with a beautiful bridge, dedicated to his memory. The Indiana approach rises out of the grounds of the Clark Memorial and is appropriately embellished in granite. It is hoped that the great state of Illinois will some time beautify the other end of this fine bridge, thus marking the spot where her most distinguished son first set foot upon her soil.

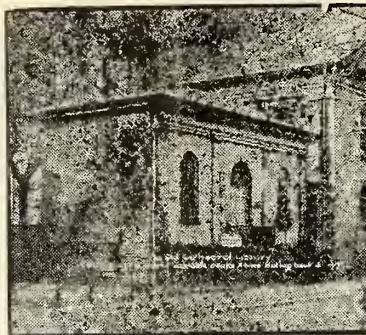
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## THE CATHEDRAL LIBRARY

EXT DOOR to the Old Cathedral at Vincennes stands a small brick building that houses one of the most remarkable collections of books and manuscripts in America. It stands, in reality, as a memorial to the scholarly attainments of Bishop Brute, the first Bishop of Vincennes. This great and good man was born in France and educated at the University of Paris. He inherited a love of books from his parents who were printers to the royal court. When he came to Vincennes in 1834 to become the head of the diocese he brought with him a large library of rare books, printed in many languages and covering the broad fields of history, theology and philosophy.

Bishop Brute was a most remarkable man. President John Quincy Adams, himself a great scholar, said of him that he was the "most learned man of his day in America." A fair insight into his piety and devotion to his church is revealed by



CATHOLIC LIBRARY

the following excerpt from a letter written in the declining years of his life:

"I have seen the Emperor Napoleon. I have seen the Empress and the Archduke of Austria. I have seen two popes and the grandeur of two centuries, but what is it all in comparison with the joy experienced by a priest at the altar or a good Christian at the reception of the Holy Communion."

In the Cathedral Library, maintained much as Bishop Brute left it, one may see exquisite old hand illuminated manuscripts laboriously penned by the monks of the middle ages, some of the very earliest examples of the printer's art and hundreds of volumes of some of the rarest books extant.

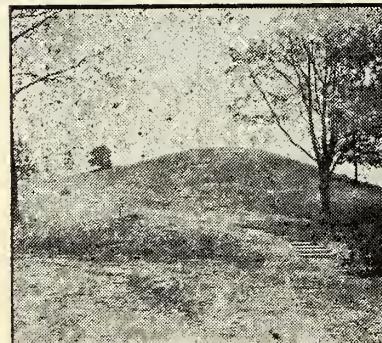
In addition to these, there are many other objects and relics pertaining to the history of Catholicism in Vincennes. When one recalls that the parish with which this institution is connected has been in continuous existence now for more than two centuries one can appreciate the age of the community and the changes that time has wrought. This library is well worth a visit because it proves in a most striking manner that there were men of culture and learning in this far western country while it was merely an outpost in the wilderness.

A small admission fee is charged visitors for the purpose of sustaining the library.

## PRE-HISTORIC INDIAN MOUNDS

ONE OF the most absorbing subjects relating to this continent is that pertaining to the mysterious race of men called the Mound Builders. Practically all that we know of these strange people of the unrecorded past is what we have been able to glean from the mute reminders which they left in the form of earthen mounds. It is said that there are more than 100,000 examples of these strange monuments in the United States, the largest being Monk's Mound near East St. Louis, Illinois, with a cubic content greater than the Pyramids of Egypt.

Situated about the foot-hills overlooking Vincennes is a chain of these pre-historic mounds. For size, situation and symmetry of design they rank among the best examples to be found anywhere. The exploration of their contents discloses that they were constructed by a race that



INDIAN MOUND

had progressed far on the long road that leads to civilization. Sufficient evidence has been found to reach the conclusion that they engaged extensively in agriculture and that they utilized the rivers and water courses to the fullest extent possible.

Whether the mounds about Vincennes were designed as signal towers, tombs for the dead, or for some strange religious rites has never been satisfactorily answered. Perhaps some time patient students of archaeology may be able to solve these mysteries.

In 1933 the Old Post Association, a local organization designed to preserve the points of historic interest in and about Vincennes, acquired one of the best specimens of these mounds by purchase. It is admirably located on State Highway 61, a half mile east of the city, and has been known for more than a century as the "Sugar Loaf." A parking space has been provided near it and a rustic walk-way constructed whereby visitors may easily reach the summit. From this point one may gain a wonderful view of Vincennes and the surrounding country.

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1939

# PRESS LINCOLN SAW TRACED TO 1861, THEN LOST

May Still Be Somewhere  
in Illinois Today, Van  
Natter Thinks.

Proudest tradition of the Sun-Commercial is that Abraham Lincoln saw his first printing press in March 1830 when he and his family went through Vincennes on their migration to Illinois.

It was natural for Lincoln to visit the old Sun office and to meet the pioneer editor, Elihu Stout. For Lincoln for at least five years had been a reader of the Sun. It was his chief source of information. Not only did it bring to him the news of the world but it served to educate him in the classics, for the Sun in those early days reprinted classic literature. It gave Lincoln an insight into politics and political issues. For Editor Stout was a man of vigorous views and he had the courage to put them to pen.

#### A Franklin Press.

The press that Abraham Lincoln saw here was a "Ramage Press" of the style of the days of Benjamin Franklin, and not a Washington hand press as has been popularly believed, according to Capt. Francis Van Natter who has spent months in trying to locate the historical property. He traced its ownership down to 1861 where the trail had faded.

Mr. Stout sold the press to John R. Jones in 1842. Jones sent it to Perryville, Ind., where Jones published the "Perryville Eagle" which he printed on this press, according to Capt. Van Natter. In 1843 or 1844 Jones sold the press and office to Daniel Clapp who took it to Dan-Patriot which was printed on this press. He afterward sold out to Rooney and Peabody who published the Illinois Herald, which used this press up to November 1850. On January 1, 1851, they sold this press and office to Joseph A. Graham for \$400. It was hauled from Danville to Middleport for Mr. Graham by Henry Root and Garrett Eoff.

Three volumes of the "Iroquois Journal" were printed on this press when about April 1, 1854 it was sold to William Keady and Benjamin Scott who printed one volume of the "Iroquois County Press" on it. It then went out of use until 1861 when it was sold to George Eellers and Brother, then of Clifton, who took it to Tuscola, Ill., and there printed a paper on it, the name of which is not known.

#### Still Looking.

Capt. Van Natter still believes part of this old historical press may still be somewhere in southern Illinois. He is still looking for it.

"If this old press could still be found it would prove a valuable relic of a past age," said Capt. Van Natter.

The Rampage Press, Capt. Van-Natter says, had a wooden frame, a double bed and a single platen, requiring two pulls to print one side of the paper. The last time it was seen, it was almost useless, the bed having been worn so much by rubbing with pumice stone that it required several layers of paper under the form to bring the center up.

Not only was this press historical from the standpoint of its Lincoln tradition, but it was used for fifty years in printing the territorial laws of Indiana here at Vincennes.

3/2/40

R. W. Way

THE NEWS-SENTINEL, F

Memorials of Vincennes are shown in this photographic group by Pius Lankford.



Lincoln Memorial Bridge across  
the Wabash River at Vincennes.

Memorials of Vincennes are shown in this photographic group by Pius Lankford.



Lincoln Memorial Bridge across  
the Wabash River at Vincennes.

*new  
6/15/74*



Bonner-Allison mansion, Vincennes, Ind., built in 1842, a room  
in which was occupied by President Lincoln, now marked with a  
bronze tablet. (Hohenberger Photo.)

**The Hoosier Farm Wife Says:**

## **Come With Me To Walk Where Lincoln Walked**

It is now 140 years since Abraham Lincoln was born. There are at best only a little handful of people remaining who can actually say "I saw him," yet to most Americans the personality of Lincoln is as vivid and familiar as if he had been a personal acquaintance. There are a number of excellent biographies that contribute to this sense of familiarity, and the many Lincoln statues and memorials sprinkled over the country intensify it.

A few years ago, when I had a little more time for traveling than I do now, my sister and I made a trip along the Lincoln Memorial Highway into Illinois, and visited several significant Lincoln places, notably Springfield. By the time I returned home, I felt as if I had been truly a contemporary and had lived through Lincoln's life.

At Vincennes we saw the first of a series of tablets marking significant parts of Lincoln's progress to the White House. At the river bridge, this tablet said "Here the youth Lincoln passed going to his new home in Illinois." Each additional tablet heightened the feeling that we were following Lincoln, that he had gone just ahead of us and would be waiting in Springfield when we arrived.

Near Charlestown we saw road markers directing us to the "Lincoln Homestead." At the spot, the cabin was gone, nothing remained except a large lilac bush, reminding us of Walt Whitman's moving lament "When lilacs last in the dooryard bloomed." The yard was an un-trodden tangle of briars and long grass, with the fragrance of wild roses from unseen bushes.

Other Lincoln farms along the highway were indicated by bronze tablets and we stopped to read them all. We came abruptly to the little Shiloh Church where Thomas Lincoln was buried, his tall narrow headstone chipped and scarred by souvenir-takers. A tablet here told us that "shortly before assuming the presidency Lincoln came here from Springfield to visit his father's grave, in company with his step-mother. One can imagine the tumultuous emotions of

the tall, thoughtful President-elect as he walked up the little slope, with short, stout Sally Bush Lincoln who had been a devoted and understanding mother to him. Now Sally Bush has a grave beside her husband's, with a new, larger stone for both and a fence around it, and 300 miles away is the dark moody mother who held the baby in her arms 140 years ago and said "I'm going to name him Abraham, after his grandfather."

It was night when we came to Springfield. I had been eager to see Andrew O'Connor's famous statue of Lincoln and I saw it first at night, at the end of the long street leading down to the steps of the Statehouse. It was the most impressive feature of the whole trip, to me. It seemed as if it were Lincoln himself, living, standing there to welcome us.

We walked down to the place and an incident happened that made me suddenly realize that the story was not done, in Springfield, the whole tragic drama was yet to come. My sister was carrying a purse made of heavy wooden beads. It brushed against the statue and the statue answered with a muted hollow clang. And suddenly the illusion of a living Lincoln vanished . . . and I remembered the events to come . . . Gettysburg, Ford's Theater, the Oak Ridge Memorial where he now lies. From that moment all the rest of the Lincoln places held a sense of the past. It was midnight, when we stood at the steps of Lincoln's home and read Vachel Lindsay's stirring poem on a tablet "Abraham Lincoln Walks At Midnight."

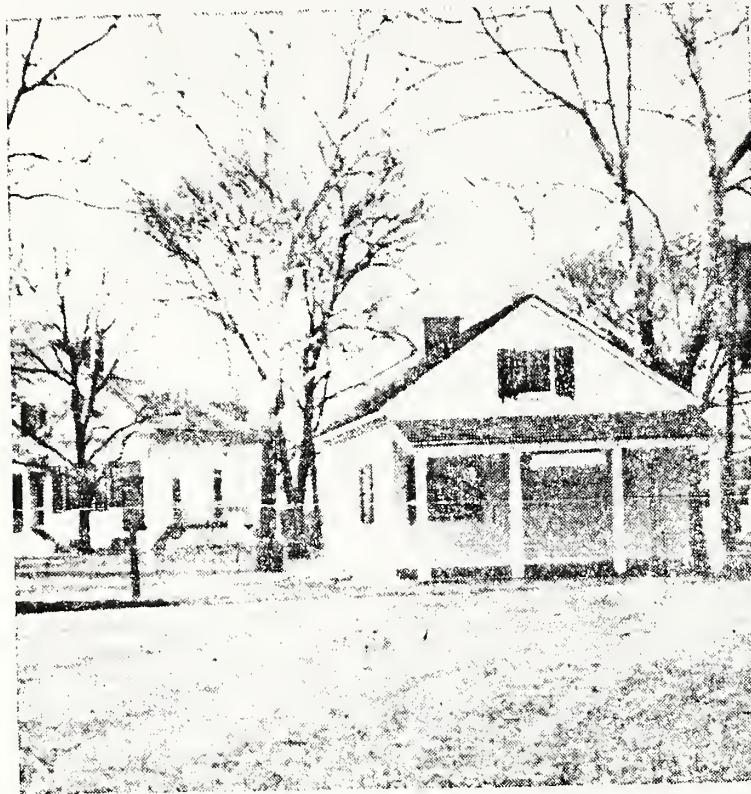
The next morning, in a slow, misty rain, we stopped and saw Ann Rutledge's grave, with its unforgettable poetic epitaph "Out of me unworthy and unknown, the vibrations of a deathless music . . . I am Ann Rutledge who sleeps beneath these weeds . . ."

It was cheerful and convincing visiting New Salem, where Lincoln had been postmaster, storekeeper, where he had met Ann Rutledge at her father's tavern, and where he studied surveying and law.

In New Salem, I kept remembering one of Mr. Sandburg's best Lincoln stories. "I will study and get ready," Lincoln had said as every schoolchild now knows "and maybe my chance will come." While he was deep in a book a neighbor came past. "Whatcha readin' Abe?" "I ain't readin', I'm studyin'." "Whatcha studyin'?" "Law," answered Lincoln, not looking up. "Good Goddlemighty," cried the neighbor, and walked on.—MRS. R.F.D.

St. Louis

# Dedication of Old Western Sun Memorial Set for Sunday, October 7



Above is the replica of the old Western Sun office where the first newspaper in Indiana was printed in 1804.

The Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, the sponsoring organization which created the Western Sun Publishing and Printing Memorial, announced today that a formal dedication of the memorial will take place on Sunday, October 7th. Outdoor ceremonies are planned. If inclement weather prevails, then adjournment can be made to the nearby Vincennes University auditorium. There is ample space for any expected crowd and for visitor car parking.

Customarily, the first week in October is observed as National Newspaper Week, this being the occasion when newspaper editors and publishers foregather to discuss problems related to the welfare of the press. Hence, during the first week of October, the time will be altogether fitting in which to dedicate the printing memorial as Indiana's contribution to the honoring of the nation's newspapers.

Association efforts now will be concentrated on arrangements for a program equal in scope to the historical significance of a restoration commemorating the 1804 establishment of publishing in the old Indiana Territory by Elihu Stout.

In due course, local and state-wide committees will be appointed to attend to the numerous details involved. Able speakers prominent in the national scene will be sought for the occasion. It is hoped to create a smooth operation so that all may enjoy the affair thoroughly,

especially out-of-town visitors, whom it is hoped will carry away desires to make repeat visits to historic Vincennes.

While the memorial building was completed and partially furnished in July 1954, the interior was far from presenting an aspect of completeness and realism. Constantly, the Association sought to create an interior scene at once realistic and warm to the senses. To a considerable degree, it believes it has succeeded in dispelling the austerity frequently associated with museums.

Old printing accessories and devices of Stout's period were not easy of procurement, and their accumulation was a tedious task. By the time the building was completed, it was perceived that many weeks would pass ere all desirable furnishings and exhibits could be acquired either by purchase or donation.

In the meantime, visitors to the adjacent Territorial Capitol were making inquiries of the custodian relative to the significance of "the little building" nearby, and asking if it could be entered.

Since the printing memorial was destined ultimately to become a gift to the State of Indiana, and since its agency, the Department of Conservation, maintained a custodian for the square block of ground upon which the Territorial Capitol and Western Sun memorials stood, the question naturally arose as to why the state should not accept the new

Reprint from  
VINCENNES  
SUN-COMMERCIAL

April 2, 1956

memorial and throw it open to the public at once, even though it was in an incomplete state of furnishing.

The Department of Conservation fell in with the idea with the result that on August 1st, 1954, it took over the property for preservation, custodial care, and the maintenance of public visiting hours. A brief ceremony marked the event, as also did a special 64-page edition of the Sun-Commercial, of which St. Louis' first newspaper; namely, the Indiana Gazette and The Western Sun were the ancestors.

The right was reserved to the Association to continue the deposit of old-time printing devices, accessories, furnishings, and exhibits in the memorial, and this activity continued with all dispatch. The installation of period relics has proceeded to a number where the hoped for realism is nearing full achievement. By dedication date, little or nothing of essential furnishing needs should remain to be acquired.

Judge Curtis G. Shake chairman of the board of trustees, Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, has stated that following the dedication and the dissolution of the Association, a voluntary and self-perpetuating committee of history-minded local citizens will be formed to co-operate with the Indiana Department of Conservation to the end that the welfare and public interest in the memorial may be kept alive.

JOHN G. BIEL  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW  
301 STAR BUILDING  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA  
TELEPHONE CRAWFORD 5068

November 26, 1956

Mr. Howard Peckham  
William L. Clements Library  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Howard:

I don't think this is a "rehash". From what I can find out the point has never been settled.

This summer I went down to Bruceville to take some color photos of the Old Bruce House and the old Trout House which is going to be torn down and I ran on to one of the present generation of the Bruce Family. We got to talking about the old Bruce House when it was a Tavern and about Lincoln staying there on one of his political tours, etc. She then mentioned the Lincoln family crossing the Wabash River and seemed very incensed that the Illinois Historical Society had fixed Vincennes as the crossing. She then told me the traditions which had come down in her family about the crossing at Russellville.

I didn't get too enthused over this but then it came up again. A Percy Hosten of Marshall, Illinois, wrote to me to compliment me on my column which he reads religiously. In his letter he said that "it is the consensus of those whose ancestors settled in that part of Illinois that, during the Winter and Spring months, the crossing may have been further up the river at that time..."

Historical errors and lacunae are very fascinating to me. I then went into the matter more thoroughly and obtained a copy of the report made by Charles M. Thompson of the University of Illinois and his Committee -- and it is not at all logical or even sensible. If that report is the entire basis upon which rests the conclusion that the Lincoln Family crossed at Vincennes, then it certainly is not a very sound foundation.

There is absolutely no sense in "perpetuating errors". Too many professional historians do this all the time. Take Barnhart & Carmony's latest INDIANA; they pronounce -- with the weight of God's word -- that Old Fort Harrison had five sides!! They cite no reference. Of course they took this statement from Esarey but he was wrong -- and they keep the error going.

Take the old error of Columbus and the flat earth conception -- nearly every school history book contains it -- but that still does not make it true. The very common attribution of the credit for the British conquest of Canada to Wolfe is a misconception. The causes of the Revolutionary War and even the Civil War which are being taught, today, by professional historians are incomplete, one-sided and limited. Why can't these things be cleared up? Why can't we have written history which really speaks the truth?

2.

November 26, 1856

JOHN G. BIEL  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW  
301 STAR BUILDING  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA  
TELEPHONE CRAWFORD 5068

Mr. Howard Peckham

But to get back to Lincoln -- have you read, critically, the Thompson report? I will bet you a nickel you have not but, still, you accept its conclusion without question. That is the whole basic trouble. Too much weight is given these writings by so-called professionals who do not seem to have any pride in their profession. I have really made an intensive study of Old Fort Harrison and was about to write it all up when Barnhart & Garmony came out with their book. You can imagine how far I would get in describing this Fort different from what they do!! They are professional historians and the latest writing on Indiana History should be the "last word" on the matter -- but it certainly is not.

Dr. McMurtry has a letter from one, Peter Smith, which carries a great deal of weight in establishing the crossing of the Lincoln family at Vincennes, but still, it was not considered in the Thompson report and it has a great many things against it. It is "self-serving", political and greatly exaggerated and "flowery". Something more must be found to really afford a scientific basis for the conclusion.

I do not know how long Lincoln was in Vincennes even if he crossed there. I always did think that claim about his connection with the Printing Press in Vincennes was full of holes. He would not have been there more than a very few hours even if he did cross there. That certainly is not much contact upon which to base so much "fuss". It is not even as sound as some of these "Washington Slept Here" items.

I suppose this whole matter will be dropped -- or at least not pushed by anyone -- and the error will be perpetually perpetuated. Even Hawkins of the Indiana Society was getting ready to plane an Historical Marker there -- without any further investigation. That would have been a joke if something later had developed the other way.

If I had the time -- which I most certainly haven't -- I would do the investigation myself. As it is, I am obtaining a few letters from the older families in the neighborhood of the "trek" to record their family traditions -- for what they may amount to -- just to hold in reserve, if any additional marker should be erected down there. Then too, I have raised the question in my column -- copy of which I sent to you. This should be sufficient to stir up some "professional" who really takes pride in his profession -- a pure historian, as it were -- to do something about it.

Personal regards.

Very truly yours,

John G. Biel

JGB:er

cc: Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry

JOHN G. BIEL  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW  
301 STAR BUILDING  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA  
TELEPHONE CRAWFORD 5068

November 14, 1956

Dr. Gerald McMurtry  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

Thanks for your letter of November 2nd. I have just returned from New York and it was on my desk. I appreciate the photostat of Lincoln Lore No. 386. This is much earlier than my copies go back. I did not get on to Lincoln Lore until in 1952, but I have every copy since No. 1200 filed in a loose leaf binder. I appreciate them very much. I tried to get a complete set at one time from Dr. Warren, but he indicated it was impossible.

I have been thinking more -- off and on -- about the Peter Smith letter. I believe historians, today, are too much influenced by the "German school". True, these are mostly professors or "professional historians" but they carry too much weight. They are especially prone to what they believe to be careful research and spare no pains to be scrupulously exact in philological matters but not often do they care for a literary presentation of the results they have obtained. They do steer as far away as possible from the difficult -- and sometimes painful -- effort of applying thought and intellect to what they find or even from the responsibility of arriving at a practical resolution. They do not, at all, want to get into any dangerous struggles. I suppose they might be called "pure" historians. These are the ones who have caused some writers to define History as "the most anti-scientific of all the sciences though it transmits much that is worth knowing".

A "document" or a "letter" -- just from the mere fact that it is a document or letter -- is not infallible. Falsification of documents and evidence has gone on from time immemorial. Consider Roman inscriptions, town histories, family genealogies, biographies and letters, forged for reasons of national or civic or family arrogance or to satisfy vanity, etc. I believe there must be an intelligent orientation and the application of experience and knowledge of the course of human events not merely the "heavenly pleasure of scanning and consulting books and in fingering a grand old parchment". I think a search for the truth must be attempted and the concepts of nature and of man -- and the aims of man and society -- must be given serious, logical consideration in the survey and search. If something is illogical, the mere fact that there are several such evidences does not of itself, give it an aspect of truth. It still may be false even though it be compounded.

When lacunae occur in history and we try to recreate or reestablish the connecting links, we must try to apply an effectual analogy which is

JOHN G. BIEL

SHEET NO. 2.

DATE November 14, 1956

LETTER TO Mr. Gerald McMurtry

drawn from the experience of the course of human affairs in general and of historical affairs in particular. I do not mean that wild and uncontrollable imagination must be used; I mean that a logical, sensible, and probable reconstruction should be attempted.

It still makes me shinge when I think that Smith letter might be used as establishing the absolute truth of the matter.

Regards.

Very truly yours,

John G. Biel

JGB:er

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 480

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

June 20, 1938

## THE LINCOLNS CROSSING THE WABASH

The Lincoln family crossing the Wabash River and for the first time entering the state of Illinois was memorialized on Flag Day, June 14, at a point in Lawrence County opposite the city of Vincennes. The Illinois Daughters of the American Revolution were responsible for the erection of the impressive memorial in a thirty-two acres park, acquired by the state as a proper setting for the monument.

The dedication of a sculptural group depicting the migrating Lincolns was the occasion for the exercises. The work of art by Nellie V. Walker of Chicago, shows in a bas relief on a limestone panel, 10 x 12 feet, various members of the Lincoln family and ox team, and standing out from the engaged figures is a heroic bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln.

This statuary is a distinct contribution to our understanding of an important historical episode in the career of Abraham Lincoln. It introduces him to the state of Illinois at twenty-one years of age, a man grown who is soon to start out for himself in life's adventure.

Thirteen people made this memorable journey from Spencer County, Indiana to Macon County, Illinois. The group and the ages of the members follow:

Thomas Lincoln, 54; his wife, Sarah Johnston Lincoln, 41.

Abraham Lincoln, 21; and John D. Johnston, 14.

Dennis Hanks, 31; his wife, Elizabeth Johnston Hanks, 23; and four children all under 9; Sarah Jane, Nancy Ann, Harriet A., and John Talbott.

John Hall, age not known; his wife, Matilda Johnston Hall, 19; and son, John, under 3.

The precise place where the Lincoln's crossed the Wabash River has been a question of long dispute. One group was quite certain the crossing was made at a point opposite Russellville, Illinois, while other authorities were confident that Vincennes was the point where the Wabash was crossed. This uncertainty caused much controversy as to the wisdom of memorializing a spot which could not be definitely established.

It is a strange coincidence, indeed, that just on the eve of dedication of this memorial there should be discovered a document of unquestionable authenticity which seems to settle for-

ever this long dispute and allow the sponsors of the memorial to dedicate the monument without fear of having blundered as to location.

Mr. William W. Kiefer of Springfield, Ohio, in looking over some old papers left by his father, J. Warren Kiefer, came across a letter written by his father's cousin, Peter Smith, on July 17, 1860. Smith lived at Petty's Post Office, Lawrence County, Illinois.

This original letter, through the courtesy of Mr. Kiefer, is now among the rare manuscripts of the Lincoln National Life Foundation. It not only confirms the place of crossing but also substantiates one of the most famous of the human interest events in Lincoln's life which, incidentally occurred just after the family entered Illinois. The letter in part follows:

"Petty's P. O., Lawrence Co.  
"Ill. July 17th, 1860

"J. Warren Kiefer, Esq.,  
"Springfield  
"Ohio

"Dear Cousin:

"It is so long since I received a letter from you that I am anxious to hear from you. I have been very closely engaged since my return and have given but little time to the land business or to my social correspondence. I have since the first of April fenced in 200 acres of my prairie and have broken and put in corn about 100 acres—the corn looks very fine and if the season should continue as favorable as it has been thus far I will have an immense crop. I never saw corn look better.

"I attended our State Convention on the 9th May at which we nominated our State officers—there were about 600 delegates and I can truly say I never in life saw congregated together so many noble intelligent looking men. But "Honest Old Abe" was there a head and shoulders above the rest, the noblest Roman of them all—the observed of all observers—simple and unaffected in manners—sociable and easy of access to the humblest of his fellow Citizens. I had the honor of an introduction to Lincoln by my friend J. K. Dubois auditor of State who is from our County. Lincoln gave me a very cordial greeting and entered into conversation as an old friend and acquaintance. After conversing a while said I to him, 'Lincoln there is a rumor in circulation in our region about you and I want you to tell me all

about it.' 'Well,' said he, 'what it is?' 'About 30 years ago rumor says Abram Lincoln was seen walking barefoot driving an ox team with an ox waggon moving a family through our town of Lawrenceville—it that true?' 'In part,' says Lincoln. 'About 30 years ago I did drive my father's ox waggon and team moving my father's family through your town of Lawrenceville and I was afoot but not barefoot. In my young days I frequently went barefooted but on that occasion I had on a substantial pair of shoes—it was a cold day in March and I never went barefooted in cold weather. I will remember that trip thro' your County as long as I live. I crossed the Wabash at Vincennes and the river being high the road on the low prairie was covered with water a half mile at a stretch and the water covered with ice—the only means by which I could keep the road was by observing the stakes on each side placed as guides when the water is over the road. When I came to the water I put a favorite fist (fice) dog I had along into the wagon and got in myself and whipped up my oxen and started into the water to pick my way across as well as I could—after breaking the ice and wading about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile my little dog jumped out of the waggon and the ice being thin he broke through and was struggling for life. I could not bear to lose my dog and I jumped out of the waggon and waded waist deep in the ice and water, got hold of him and helped him out and saved him.'

"Lincoln is a man of the people who by patient toil and perseverance from the humblest walks of life is now to be considered second to no man in our great Republic. His nomination is greeted with enthusiastic shouts and joyful demonstrations by all the friends of freedom over our prairie state. We have good reasons to believe that Egypt will be redeemed. Lincoln will get a vastly increased vote over the vote given to Fremont. As an example our County of Lawrence gave Fremont 80 votes only out of a vote of 1500. At our next fall election we expect to cast about 2000 and from the reports of a recent investigation lately made we expect to carry the County for Lincoln—this is over a thousand per cent gain. Many other counties boast of larger gains than ours—in some counties in Egypt there were but 2 or 3 Republican votes given in '56 and they now expect to carry the counties for Lincoln. . . .

"Yours truly,  
"Peter Smith"



A plaque at the corner of this Vincennes building points out its heritage. Now the Gardner Funeral Home, Lincoln once slept here in a special 8-foot bed.



## Historic Vincennes Mansion May Be Razored

By MARIE M'QUAID

A big question mark hangs over the Bonner-Allen Mansion, one of the most historic buildings in Vincennes.

Will the house where Abraham Lincoln twice stayed go to a commercial chain which would razed it for new business facilities or will it be bought and restored as a piece of Indiana history?

One thing is sure. The Gardner funeral home, now occupying the Bonner-Allen Mansion, is going to move out and sell the building.

Dexter Gardner II, present head of the business, said negotiations have been under way the past 90 days but he would not reveal names of the negotiators.

Is there any danger that the building might be torn down?

"There could be a possibility," said Gardner. "There are other things in the air that have not been actually developed yet . . . there are large companies that would completely tear it down and use it for their business, because we have an awfully large parking lot. That is something for any business and attractive to any national organization in business with a chain."

Saying there were "several different deals on it," Gardner added: "We have been trying to keep the place to get it restored. There is some angle here that some folks would like to have it but they don't have anything right now and can't get it across." This meant organizations which had large appropriations arranged for their funds, he explained.

"We are working from another angle, but I am not at liberty to discuss that at present because they don't want it," said Gardner.

\* \* \*

Restoration would not involve a great outlay, said Gardner, because the building has been kept in a good state of preservation.

In any deal over the mansion, the Gardner company would require a minimum of nine months delay before they move to new quarters to be built on the site they have already in mind.

George E. Gardner (1866-1929) bought the Bonner-Allen Mansion in

Page 4—The Sunday Look

1915 as his family's funeral business approached its centennial.

The mansion, on Main Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets, is believed to have been built about 1822, though the exact date is not known. A wall plaque outside the house dates it from 1795.

Said to be the first brick house in the area, the mansion was built by a Cincinnati contractor, Jonathan Spinning. Timing the construction is further confused by the fact that the oldest Cincinnati city directory lists five Jonathan Spinnings, all contractors, brick masons or carpenters.

Hubbard Smith M.D., in his history of early Vincennes, places the building around 1822, constructed for a David S. Bonner, Virginia financier and well known cotton mill operator in Vincennes.

Tradition has it that the timber for the house was floated down the Wabash. The floor beams in the four-story house measure 3 inches by 14 inches and the original front door and large brass locks are still in use. Rooms have 14-foot ceilings and the walls of solid brick measure about 14 inches thick. The original

house had 33 rooms, but now there are about 22, exclusive of the large hallways.

The original staircase and upstairs balcony were removed for the installation of an elevator when the mansion became a funeral home.

\* \* \*

Colonel Cyrus McCracken Allen, prominent Whig politician, speaker of the state legislature, and friend of Abraham Lincoln, bought the Vincennes mansion in 1845.

Allen, Kentuckian, and graduate of the department of law at Transylvania University in Lexington in 1837, moved to Vincennes in 1844. He was elected to the state legislature in 1859. In 1860, the year he was chosen speaker, he was the first person to propose the name of Abraham Lincoln for the presidency of the United States, according to the Vincennes Gazette of April 14, 1860.

As a contractor, Allen constructed the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad and part of the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad.

\* \* \*

His friendship with Lincoln

brought the tall President twice to his home.

The Allen family tells how their ancestor inquired of his guest how he slept on his first visit.

"Fine, but the bed was too short," was Lincoln's joking comment.

Next time Lincoln visited the house there was an eight-foot bed for him, specially constructed in walnut by a local cabinet maker.

When Lincoln was President, Allen and his daughter, Grace called on him in Washington, while returning from the West Point graduation of Allen's son.

To the inquiry about the nature of his call on the President, Allen replied: "Just tell Old Abe that Red Top is here to see him." He was ushered in at once.

A five dollar gold piece, which President Lincoln gave to Grace Allen during that visit, now hangs with Grace's picture in the Lincoln Memorial University museum at Cumberland Gap.

Allen is mentioned in a letter written by Lincoln on May 2, 1860, where the future President quotes Allen as promising the support of the entire Indiana delegation at the Chicago convention.

A bronze plate marks the Lincoln Room in the Bonner-Allen mansion.

\* \* \*

Another part of the mansion's history has it as a "halfway house" for stagecoach passengers to obtain refreshments on their journeys.

Early in 1900, between the time the Allen family vacated the house and the Gardner family bought it, the building was used as a boarding house.

History returned to the house with the Gardner funeral business, which is probably the oldest business of its kind in Indiana to remain a family business. The sixth generation, George Gardner, is now associated in the firm.

In 1957 the entire building was sand-blasted, to show the original brick and waterproofed. Few bricks were replaced, the original remaining in excellent condition.

The interior continues in much of the original beauty of ornate ceilings, fine paneling and fireplaces.

June 4, 1961



George Gardner points out to his son David Dexter Gardner, 4, the doorway plate marking the Lincoln Room in the Bonner-Allen mansion.

# Historic Vincennes Home to Be Abandoned



## Historic Landmark

VINCENNES — The Bonner-Allen mansion on Main Street was built around 1800 for a Virginia financier.

By MARIE MCQUAID, Special Correspondent

VINCENNES, Ind.—A historic landmark that is now a funeral home may be deserted soon when the business moves to another location.

The famed Bonner-Allen mansion, now the Gardner funeral home, is on Main Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets in a congested area.

Many residents of Vincennes Mrs. Allen's picture, is in the hope that the house may be preserved and possibly made into a museum.

Of colonial architecture, it was built by a Cincinnati contractor, Jonathan Spinning. The date is not exactly known. One record says 1795 but Dr. Hubbard Smith, in his history of early Vincennes, mentions the house as being built about 1822 for a David S. Bonner. Bonner, a Virginia financier, became a cotton mill operator in Vincennes.

According to tradition, timber for the house was floated down the Wabash. The floor beams in the four-story house measure 3 by 14 inches. The original front door and large brass locks still are in use. The walls are 14 inches thick, and the window sills measure about 14 inches in depth, in comparison to today's 6-inch depth.

The original house had 33 rooms, but now there are 22, exclusive of the large hallways. The Gardners removed the beautiful stairway and upstairs balcony to install an elevator in the front hall.

In 1957 the building was sand blasted to show the original bricks, and only a few bricks had to be replaced.

In 1845 Bonner sold the house to Col. Cyrus McCracken Allen. Formerly from Kentucky, he moved to Vincennes in 1844 and became prominent in Whig politics and the State Legislature. A contractor, he constructed the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad and part of the Indianapolis and Vincennes Railroad.

### 8-FOOT BED WAS MADE FOR LINCOLN

Allen and Abraham Lincoln were friends and Lincoln twice was an overnight guest in the house. After his first visit Lincoln jokingly told Allen the bed was too short. Allen commissioned a local cabinet maker to design an 8-foot walnut bed, and on this Lincoln slept during a second visit.

When the Allens called on Lincoln in the White House, the President gave Grace Allen

cier, David S. Bonner. The colonial-style house now is a funeral home owned by Dexter Gardner II and his son, George Gardner.

One of the funerals in the time of Elbridge Gardner was that of Col. Francis Vigo in 1836. Vigo, a patriot who had aided George Rogers Clark with a personal loan, was buried for \$20. The funeral bill was not paid until 1875, when the U.S. government finally made a settlement to the Vigo heirs for the money loaned to Clark.

Early in 1900 the Allen family vacated the house and it became a boarding house before the Gardners purchased it for \$21,000 in 1915. It was bought from Mrs. Lloyd Allen Johnson, a daughter of the colonel.

George Gardner, who now is associated with his father, Dexter Gardner, is the sixth generation to direct the funeral business. It was founded in 1816 by Andrew Gardner.

Andrew Gardner, a skilled



Dexter Gardner II (left) poses with his grandson, David Dexter, 4, and David's father, George Gardner, in a paneled room in the Bonner-Allen house. The first George E. Gardner bought the house in 1915.

6/21/1961  
INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

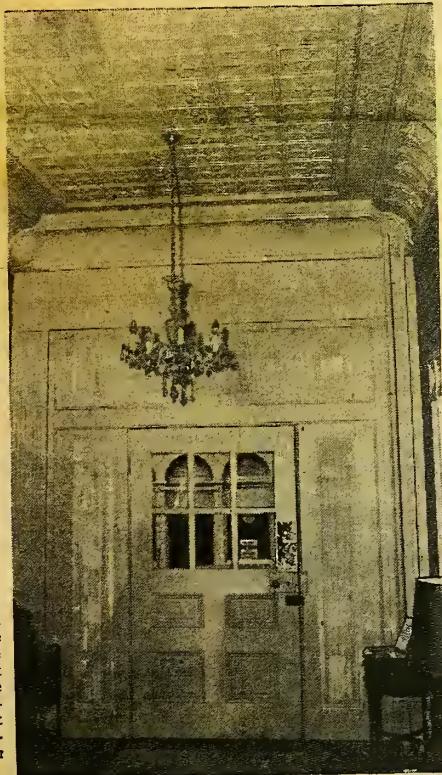
### BONNER-ALLEN MANSION

• Constructed 1795 •  
Abraham Lincoln visited as guest of Col. Cyrus Allen during decade before Civil War

This sign on the original bricks of the house tells visitors that Abraham Lincoln once stayed there.

cabinet maker, designed and made by hand a beautiful hearse, known as a "dead wagon," that was used by the firm until the first motor hearse was bought in 1915.

Several old-timers remember with nostalgia the white Arabian horses used by the firm, not only for funerals, but also for weddings. The team took Miss Ruth Gardner and three of her classmates to graduation at St. Rose Academy in 1915. The four girls, dressed in white organdy and carrying arm bouquets of American Beauty roses, rode in the double phaeton with the top down.



This Bostonian door with a square fanlight is the original door in the house. The ceiling and cornices

# No Historian Can Trace Influence of Vincennes On Youthful Lincoln on His Two Visits Here

Vincennes residents walking down Main Street Wednesday are probably following literally in the footsteps of Abraham Lincoln.

No historian will ever be able to tell of this town's influence upon the young Lincoln, through its educated men, its merchants, its newspaper, and the first glimpses of a more cosmopolitan life which he gathered here. Yet they must have been great.

The picture of Lincoln standing before the Western Sun printing press is a familiar one, yet it was not the future president's first contact with this city.

Vincennes was the cultural and governmental center for the great area which also embraced the Lincoln farm at Pigeon Creek. From 1823, when William Jones opened his general store at Pigeon Creek, Lincoln had access to and no doubt read Elihu Stout's Western Sun & General Advertiser.

Even earlier, in October, 1817, his father Thomas had journeyed here to make the first payment for his farm at the U.S. Land Office where he received a receipt for \$16 from Nathaniel Ewing.

Abraham Lincoln's first visit was probably at 18 when he became of age for militia duty and came to Vincennes with a neighbor, Henry Brooner, to buy a rifle.

Francis Marion Van Natter, in his book "Lincoln's Boyhood," describes the visit.

"Century-old Vincennes was not unknown to Lincoln. He had heard his father and William Jones describe the place. From reading the Western Sun, he knew something about the town's commerce and leading citizens.

"He was not surprised to see Negro slaves working there in



**MEMENTO FOUND HERE**—This memento of the 1864 Presidential campaign was found in a Vincennes home recently. It is a campaign coin, about the size of a penny. On one side it says "Lincoln and Freedom." On the other side is "Good for Another Heat."

violation of the slavery prohibition in the Indiana State Constitution and the Ordinance of 1787, or to hear the townspeople speaking French as they strolled up and down the cherry tree-lined streets.

"He saw the little French houses of 'poteaux en terre' with gardens in the back. At the foot of Market Street and a few rods down the Wabash River, he saw marks of the buffalo crossing and nearby the ruins of Fort Sackville . . . On the site of Saint Xavier's log church, where Clark had forced Hamilton to sign the articles of surrender, Father John L. Champaonier was building the Cathedral of Vincennes. After shopping around town for awhile, Lincoln and Brooner bought a rifle for fifteen dollars and left for home."

Lincoln's most well-known youth-

ful visit occurred in 1830 when he moved with his family from Indiana to Illinois.

At that time the family crossed the swollen waters of White River at Rocky Ford near Petersburg and moved across what is now Knox County to Vincennes, reaching there on a Saturday morning.

Abe and his father took their worn-down wagon wheels to the smithy of Jesse Slawson for new iron, and while they were there Abe strolled across to the Western Sun office where Elihu Stout was printing the week's paper.

The Lincoln family stayed in Vincennes over Sunday and young Abe no doubt watched life in what was to him a big city with keen interest.

Van Natter recounts that "Sun-

day in Vincennes was a noisy care-free day. From the five thousand acre common field, bordering the town and cultivated after old French custom, farmers trooped in to mingle hilariously with travelers, courreurs de bois, gamblers, and cutthroats.

"They walked the wide streets, sometimes making passes at black-eyed Creole girls. They fired guns. They crowded into taverns, drank wine, and danced with gay women while fiddlers scraped out merry tunes. Blacksmiths blew and hammered—all making the Lord's Day close kin to a witches' Sabbath."

Lincoln was to return in later years, when Vincennes was less of a frontier outpost, but he doubtless carried memories of those early days throughout his life.

Holiday Inn  
magazine For Travelers  
October, 1970

## INDIANA GLOWS IN AUTUMN

*Historic sites, fairs, festivals welcome visitors to Hoosierland*

**T**O TELL THE STORY of Abe Lincoln's years in Indiana, the National Park Service maintains a Living Historical Farm on the site of the Thomas Lincoln farm at Lincoln City in southern Indiana.

Here, on the site where Lincoln lived from his 7th to 21st year, is the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. Period buildings and fences have been reconstructed, and crops similar to those raised by the Lincoln family (corn, cotton and tobacco) are cultivated as they would have been 140 years ago.

Also at Lincoln City, at the end of a trail of historic stones through a beautiful wooded area, is the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

In the Lincoln Pioneer Village at Rockport, several buildings, including the Lincoln homestead, have been reconstructed. These include a law office from which Abe borrowed

books; Jones Store, where he clerked; the Old Pigeon Baptist Church, which he and his father helped build; a pioneer schoolhouse; a museum of artifacts from the period and a museum of early transportation.

Even at Indiana's Santa Claus Land, a family amusement park from which millions of letters are postmarked each year, there is a Pioneer Village in which it seems the visitor is traveling down a country road in Lincoln's time.

A few miles to the northeast is Brown County State Park and the little hamlet of Nashville, site of one of the nation's outstanding art colonies. The rustic atmosphere of Brown County, with its covered bridges, its split-rail fences, horse-drawn sorghum mills and miles of beautiful forest land are reminiscent of the times Lincoln spent in Indiana. Brown County is famous for the

splendor of its autumn color, at its peak in October.

A side trip to historic New Harmony, home of the Golden Rain Tree, is worthwhile. The Golden Rain Tree, which blooms each June, originally was planted at New Harmony by naturalist Thomas Say. The showering of golden petals gives it the name. New Harmony was the site of two experiments in communal living down through the years. The Harmonists were already there when Abe Lincoln and his family arrived in Hoosierland from Kentucky. Many of the original homes there have been restored, and the "Roofless Church" is a noted example of contemporary architecture.

Columbus, Indiana, known for its ultramodern architecture, is only a few minutes drive from eastern Brown County.

At Vincennes, you might look for

*Pumpkins are piled high at roadside stands in Lincoln County.*



*Territorial Capitol Building at Vincennes after restoration.*



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Oxen are still used in southern Indiana hills of Lincoln Trail.

boyhood reminders of that town's favorite son—comedian Red Skelton—before taking the Lincoln Memorial Bridge across the Wabash River at precisely the same spot that Lincoln's folk crossed on their way to Illinois.

Vincennes is the oldest city in Indiana and its landmarks include the George Rogers Clark Memorial. During America's colonial period, Vincennes was the focal point of four great streams of civilization—the French empire, the British empire, the fading Indian empire and the emerging American nation.

Founded as French outposts to prevent English penetration and interference with the fur trade, the first small fort was built at Vincennes by 1732. It slowly became a village and later developed into the cradle of culture of the Northwest Territory.

During the Revolutionary War, Vincennes was the center of the storied exploits of George Rogers Clark. Out of the Clark period came Maurice Thompson's novel, *Alice of Old Vincennes*. At Vincennes, too, the career of William Henry Harrison first gained national stature. The social and political life on the Indiana frontier centered in Governor Harrison's home, Grouseland, a 26-room mansion built on the banks of the Wabash. It also served as military headquarters and as a fort against hostile Indian attack. The home has been restored by the Francis Vigo Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and is open to the public.

The stately St. Francis Xavier Old Cathedral, oldest church in the state, dates back to 1749, with the present brick structure started in 1826. It is here in the crypt that four French bishops are buried. The Old Cath-

edral Library contains the rare book collection of frontier Bishop Simon Brute. Other points of interest in Vincennes are the Territorial Capitol Building, the Log Cabin Tourist Center, maintained by Vincennes University, and the Old State Bank, which now serves as an art gallery.

All of Indiana is in a festival mood in autumn, and there are hundreds of fairs, art shows, parades, football games, cheese-rolling contests, float-boat processions and antique shows. Turkey shoots are a fall tradition.

Indiana is a camper's paradise in the fall with thousands of idyllic camp sites, including a new Holiday Inn Trav-L-Park at Angola.

There is big-time collegiate football action at Notre Dame, Purdue and Indiana Universities, as well as at many smaller colleges.

Racing buffs head for Indiana in the fall for the annual Hoosier Hundred, a championship auto race featuring many of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway drivers.

Sailing is at its best on the more than 1,000 inland lakes of Indiana, surrounded by magnificent fall foliage.

Covered bridges abound throughout the state. The largest number can be found in Parke County, where they are commemorated every autumn with a colorful festival.

Besides displays of native art, there are open-air booths along the highways displaying handmade quilts, cane-bottom chairs and colorfully woven rugs.

You can pick up a jug of cider at a roadside stand, enjoy the unique taste of persimmon pudding or spread warm apple butter on hot biscuits—that's autumn in history-enriched Indiana.

# Capitol attractions

Midwest beauties draw visitors to their historic halls

By Don Davenport  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

**S**PRINGFIELD, Ill.—Rich in history and tradition, state capitols—those soaring, grandiose edifices of state government—link our past, present and future.

State capitols remain popular attractions with visitors of all ages. The beautiful marble and granite, the towering dome, the floral gardens and plantings, the statues, paintings and murals, all help to keep state heritage alive.

Here's a roundup of state capitols, past and present, in six Midwestern states:

#### Illinois (statehood 1818)

Capitals: *Kaskaskia (1800-19), Vandalia (1820-39), Springfield*.

Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site preserves a simple, two-story, Creek Revival statehouse built in 1836. Abraham Lincoln was a legislator here from 1836 to 1839. The Supreme Court chambers, state offices and House of Representative's Chamber are furnished in period.



The Illinois State Capitol in Springfield: Still called the "New Capitol," it was completed in 1888.

Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site, 315 W. Capitol, Vandalia. Self-guided tours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Donation suggested. 118-283-1151.

Springfield's Old State Capitol (1839-76) is rich in Lincoln memories. Here Lincoln argued some 200 cases before the Illinois Supreme Court and here, in May, 1865, his body lay in state. The Greek Revival structure has been restored to its 1840s appearance and contains some original Lincoln artifacts.

Old State Capitol State Historic Site, 400 State Street, Springfield. Guided tours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Living history tours, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays, hourly from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays from mid-April to mid-October. Closed New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Donation suggested. 217-782-2029.

Completed in 1888, the present statehouse is still called the "New Capitol." The dome is 361 feet high, 74 feet higher than the U.S. Capitol dome. Inside is a stained glass skylight bearing the State Seal of Illinois. Statues, murals and other works of art are found throughout the building.

State Capitol, 2nd Street and Capitol Avenue, Springfield. Guided tours every 30 minutes, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, hourly from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays from New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Free admission. 217-782-2029.

#### Indiana (statehood 1816)

Capitals: *Vincennes (1800-13), Corydon (1813-25), Indianapolis*.

Vincennes State Historic Sites have several structures important in Indiana history, including the Indiana Territory Capitol. Built about 1805, the two-story frame structure housed several businesses before becoming home of the General Assembly (1811-13).

Vincennes State Historic Site, 1 W. Harrison St., Vincennes. Guided tours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Donation suggested. 812-632-7479.

Corydon Capitol State Historic Site preserves the Indiana capitol from 1816 to 1825. Built of native limestone, the restored building features period furnishings. The site includes the home of Indiana's second governor and the Constitution Elm, marking the spot where Indiana's first constitution was drafted.

Corydon Capitol State Historic Site, 202 E. Walnut St., Corydon. Self-guided tours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Donation suggested. 812-336-4850.

The present Renaissance Revival-style State Capitol in Indianapolis was constructed in 1878 at a cost of \$2 million. It was the first statehouse to have a chapel. A massive chandelier in the Supreme Court chambers requires two men to raise and lower it for maintenance.

State Capitol, Capitol Avenue and Washington Street, Indianapolis. Self-guided tours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Closed New Year's Day by appointment (not for holiday hours). Closed university and national holidays. Free admission. 317-232-3231.

#### Iowa (statehood 1846)

Capitals: *Burlington (1839-42), Iowa City (1842-57), Des Moines*.

The Old Capitol Museum, on the University of Iowa campus in Iowa City, was the last capitol of Iowa Territory (1842-46) and the first Iowa state capital (1846-57). The stately Creek Revival building contains beautiful period furnishings.

Old Capitol, Capitol Avenue and Washington Street, Iowa City. Guided tours 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Closed university and national holidays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Free admission. 319-335-1211.

The century-old State Capitol in Des Moines has a



(Above) First Capitol Historic Site, near Belmont, Wis. (On Davenport photos)



(Right) The Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison.

275-foot gold-leafed dome flanked by four smaller domes. The building's interior has 29 types of marble; there are exhibits of statues, war flags and paintings. The grounds include gardens, fountains, monuments and sculptures.

State Capitol, E. 9th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines. Guided tours every 30 minutes, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays from Memorial Day through Dec. 31; by appointment at other times. Free admission. 515-281-5591.

#### Kentucky (statehood 1792)

Capitals: *Danville (1792), Frankfort*.

Danville, former capital of the Kentucky District of Virginia, was the state capital for three days in 1792 while Kentucky's first constitution was being written. Constitution Square State Historic Site has original and reconstructed historic buildings, including a replica of the log courthouse that was the capital for 72 hours.

Constitution Square State Historic Site, 134 E. 2nd St., Danville. Self-guided tours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily from March to November (call for winter hours). Free admission. 606-248-3016.

Frankfort's choice as state capital was a compromise between Louisville and Lexington. The Greek Revival State Capitol (1827-1910) is noted for the self-supported stone circular stairway in the rotunda. There are changing historical and cultural exhibits.

Old State Capitol, Broadway and Lewis Street, Frankfort. Guided tours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. Closed university and national holidays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Free admission. 502-564-3016.

The present State Capitol (1910) has a strong French influence, including a State Reception Room replicating Marie Antoinette's drawing room at Versailles, and a rotunda and dome copied from the Hotel des Invalides above Napoleon's tomb. The building features 70 Ionic columns.

State Capitol, Capitol Avenue, Frankfort. Guided tours hourly 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Closed university and national holidays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Free admission. 502-564-3016.

#### Missouri (statehood 1821)

Capitals: *St. Charles (1821-26), Jefferson City*.

First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site in St. Charles marks the site where the Missouri legislature met on the second floor of a general store.

Restored rooms feature period furnishings. An interpretive center offers exhibits and a slide show.

First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site, 200-214 S. Main St., St. Charles. Self-guided tours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, noon to 8 p.m. Sundays from April to October. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Admission, \$2 adults, \$1.25 ages 6 to 11. 314-466-5982.

The first two capitols built in Jefferson City were destroyed by fire (1840 and 1911). The present Renaissance-style State Capitol, completed in 1917 features a marvelous grand stairway extending from the front portico to the third floor. Artwork depicting scenes from Missouri's history includes murals by famed painter Thomas Hart Benton. The Missouri State Museum is located on the ground floor.

State Capitol, downtown Jefferson City. Guided tours every 30 minutes 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, noon to 4 p.m. Sundays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Free admission. 314-751-4142.

#### Wisconsin (statehood 1848)

Capitals: *Belmont (1836), Burlington, Iowa (1837), Madison*.

First Capitol Historic Site, Belmont, features the original statehouse where the 1836 legislature presided over a territory that included all of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas as far west as the Missouri River. There are replica furnishings and a few original pieces. The adjacent courthouse has exhibits about territorial history and the buildings.

First Capitol Historic Site, 3 miles north of Belmont on County Highway G. Self-guided tours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Free admission. 608-536-0392.

The State Capitol in Madison, completed in 1917, is the third to stand on this site. The government outgrew the first as a 1904 fire destroyed the second. The marble dome is topped by "Wisconsin," a statue by Daniel Chester French. For many years the University of Wisconsin prom was held in the rotunda.

State Capitol, Capitol Square, Madison. Guided tours hourly 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays (call for holiday schedule). Free admission. 608-266-3000.

First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site in St. Charles is reached only by stairs. Corydon Capital State Historic Site in Corydon, Ind., has "limited" wheelchair access. All other sites are wheelchair accessible.



For more information on Lincoln in the Vincennes area,  
see:

Abraham Lincoln before 1860 – Crossing the Wabash  
River to Illinois

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